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# ROYAL HOMES NEAR LONDON

# ROYAL HOMES NEAR LONDON

BY

MAJOR BENTON FLETCHER

*With 43 Illustrations by the Author*

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DEDICATED

BY GRACIOUS PERMISSION

TO HER HIGHNESS

THE PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE

# PREFACE

THE aim of this book is to supplement certain historical facts of the past with the evidence of the present day. It is twofold in plan. My first object is to draw attention to those episodes in the life-stories of the Sovereigns of England which have tangible connection with royal homes lying outside the Metropolis, yet situated within the boundaries of the Home Counties. There are many such still to be found, but they are gradually being encircled by the ever-widening belt of London over the border.

My second reason for presenting this book is complementary to the first. In endeavouring to illustrate the letterpress I have pictured only those places to which some historic allusion may be found.

In some instances the views herein depicted may prove to be a sad revelation of departed glory, while others show what yet remains to be seen of places retaining not only a human interest, but also architectural features worthy of study and preservation.

Three or four years ago I accepted an invitation to illustrate the Diary of Samuel Pepys with particular reference to the then existing buildings mentioned by the diarist. It is a melancholy fact that some of the places which my illustrations represent have already been demolished through road-widening, re-building, thoughtlessness or ignorance of their value. From these circumstances it is evident that the time is opportune for further efforts of a similar nature, in order to bring to the

notice of the intelligent public a few more places of historic and pictorial interest near enough to London to be described as being "ripe for immediate development" by the commercially-minded estates exploiter!

The inception of this book happened during a few days' visit to Richmond. My hostess being an artist and an indefatigable worker for the benefit of others, I was constrained to include in my luggage pencil and paper, to prove, if need be, that I was not altogether an idle guest.

To my joy I found that the remains of the palace, which gave its name to the Royal Borough, were within sight of the bedroom thoughtfully selected for my occupation. Armed with sketching materials and a card of introduction from my kind hostess, I wasted no time in presenting myself at the door of one of the residences contained in the royal buildings within the palace gate. At the door on which I knocked I was met by a superior housekeeper in rustling black silk, who, upon reading the name on the card I gave her, addressed me thus: "Her Grace's friends are welcome to the palace," adding, after an impressive pause, "even when her ladyship is not in residence." Another impressive pause and I was bowed into a corridor stretching on either side of the entrance door. My escort, having shown me the various rooms of interest and led me under carved oak archways of undoubted Tudor construction, finally pointed out the supposed room in which Queen Elizabeth expired.

It was not until I found myself safely in bed the following night that the horrors of the last weeks of Elizabeth's long life were conjured up in my mind. The story of the final battle of that fighting monarch is well known in all its tragic intensity. Piqued and distressed beyond endurance at the loss of her former lover, whose execution she had sanctioned, the old and friendless Queen sought relief at Richmond, where she fought vainly against her own approaching end, stamped and raged

at her incompetence to ward off death and endeavoured, though without success, to gain her peace of mind through the kindly offices of the Archbishop, whom she thrust again and again upon his aching knees in fruitless effort to restore her lost composure. When all else failed, in an agony of despair, Elizabeth clutched at her rusty sword and, lunging wildly in mad confusion, stabbed here and there at the lifeless figures which stared at her with sightless eyes from the ancient tapestries of her chamber.

When this nightmare was dismissed from my thoughts it was succeeded by a firm resolution to visit other royal palaces and to trace the scraps of history attached to them. The feeling of shame at my own ignorance of this fascinating subject led to research in various directions, and to pleasant little trips for investigation and verification; notes and sketches were made, the ultimate result being this book of the Royal Homes near London.

No originality of thought is claimed by me, and the facts and traditions tell their own rather disconnected stories with reference to the places in which they actually occurred rather than in the sequence of events.

Originality is claimed only for the illustrations: these are reproductions of sketches made on the spot by myself. They may be said to be new in that they profess to be representations of buildings and views as seen shortly before the publication of this book.

If some of my readers may be persuaded to visit places I have described, but hitherto unknown to them personally, my object in presenting this volume will be achieved and my labour of love amply rewarded.

I wish to thank the fortunate occupiers of those royal houses referred to and pictured here. Permission, when asked for, was granted me to inspect and sketch these places in every instance; to this kindness, in many cases, hospitality was

added, together with scraps of historic information never before put into print.

To the Lords of the Admiralty I have to acknowledge the sanction granted for publication of reproductions of my drawing of the Queen's House, at Greenwich.

BENTON FLETCHER.

6, Buckingham Street,
S.W. 1.
*October*, 1930.

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# ROYAL HOMES NEAR LONDON

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

" They who make researches into Antiquity, may be said to passe through many dark lobbies and dusky places, before they come to the *Aula lucis*, the Great Hall of Light; they must repair to old archives, and peruse many moulded and moth-eaten records, and so bring light, as it were, out of darkness, to inform the present world what the former did, and make us see truth through our Ancestors' eyes."

" Londinopolis," J. HOWELL.

PERHAPS the foremost thought of every intelligent person when visiting London for the first time is to go to Westminster Abbey, where lie the bodies of the great Kings and Queens who governed England during a thousand years. The stranger will gaze with reverence on those royal tombs where the lifeless remains of our rulers were finally placed to rest. It is right that this should be so. It is equally intelligible that the pilgrims who meditate at the shrines of the departed should visit the houses in which these same great men and women spent their lives. How many seekers after the facts of history do more than search out the graves of our Sovereigns and perhaps the halls in which their parliaments assembled?

In these days when the stream of knowledge is so widely and swiftly distributed by wire and wave, it is refreshing to learn that there are to be discovered, near at hand, quiet backwaters of facts well worth investigation.

An interesting and surprising instance is that, apart from the well-known palaces around London, a score of dwellings exist in various states of repair, which were at one time or another the homes of the Sovereigns of England and their families. In the majority of cases these historic houses, so

well known in the past, now stand neglected or forgotten by the present generation.

How many of us to-day who live within a mile of James's Court are aware of the fact that this palace is but a short distance from other royal residences, scarcely known by name, some in ruins, some intact, to which are attached records, not so much of the pomp and pageantry of public ceremonies, but chiefly connected with those more intimate ties of home life and private entertainment concerning the family itself.

In a radius of less than twenty miles there are to be found many royal houses still retaining walls which echo with the trials and tragedies of kingly power, of romance, or the laughter of riotous living, from the days of Merrie England.

Every one knows the tomb of Henry VII, but how many pilgrims have been spurred to journey nine miles westward to walk beneath the archway leading to the palace of Richmond which this monarch built and where he lived and died.

In an opposite direction, and nearer still to London, there is at Eltham, in an almost perfect state, a fine mediæval stone bridge, mirrored in the deep protecting moat, which forms a dignified approach to a banqueting hall of regal proportions, second only to that of Westminster. Glorious in its silent emptiness, this great palace, inhabited for three hundred years by English monarchs, was once the prison of the French King John. As its atmosphere of peaceful beauty has been retained through the centuries, it is not difficult for the visitor to appreciate the reason why this same sad foreign monarch chose to return to his former place of captivity as the best asylum after the rebuff he received from his subjects.

Would anyone nowadays, if told to "go to Jericho," dream that it was possible to accomplish such a task in less than an hour from Piccadilly? Yet it would entail no great feat of endurance to accomplish the journey, and in comfort! A short distance beyond the Forest of Epping there are the scant

# Royal Homes Near London.

remains of an historic pleasure-house of that name (Jericho), towards which, in bygone days, a much married monarch would turn, in secret, when bored with the disappointments of his official home life, there to enjoy the forbidden fruits of refreshment unrestricted by Court or Council. At this same Jericho a boy was born upon whom his royal parent lavished many honours. The favoured youth lived to be a husband, but never himself attained the dignity of becoming a father.

It will be seen that London is encircled by a chain of royal residences at more or less regular intervals, the links of which are composed of dwellings of all descriptions and periods from the Norman castle to the architectural efforts of the nineteenth century. Some of them were " perfumed palaces " where warm white arms stretched forth a welcome to a fond royal master ; while others were used as prisons where the colder arms of steel forbade intrusion.

Although chiefly to be considered as places concerning the life of the princes of the land, these castles, palaces and houses comprise a sequence of buildings exemplifying the evolution of the English home. The royal families for whom all the best brains worked, dictated the style of architecture and led the fashion in the mode of living throughout the land in bygone days.

At first there was the formidable square fortress-castle of stone, with encircling outer and inner bailey. Later appeared the less regular mediæval palace, still constructed of stone, moated and embattled ; then followed the Tudor mansions with courts and wide, outstretching wings, built of red brick, with stone only used as a dressing, if at all. Elizabethan elegance gave way to the formality of the Stuarts, so by slow degrees a return was made to the conventionality of straight and studied lines, as in the earliest period. Symmetry, rather than convenience, finally became the ruling passion ; while stone or stucco regained pre-eminence for building purposes.

"The Norman keep is the earliest form of English home constructed in permanent fashion," says J. A. Gotch. "It was not, as some suppose, a prison or dungeon, or even the last refuge of a beleaguered garrison; it was the ordinary home of the family. It is not necessary, in examining a keep, to postulate a vast array of other buildings, and to wonder what they were, and whither they have disappeared. It was, probably, the only considerable building, the remainder of the establishment consisting of a wall of enclosure and various minor buildings, mostly of wood."

Guildford Castle, originally a Norman keep, was added to on several occasions. The massive walls of this building are so thick through that the smaller apartments were contrived within them, floor upon floor. Here the regular artificial defences of earth follow the natural contours of the ground. They are deep and steep, and remain almost as they were when first constructed. The keep of Guildford Castle was placed strategically on rising ground, being entered through a single narrow doorway opening from the first-floor level, and approached by an outside staircase.

The mediæval portions of the palace of Eltham and of Guildford Castle, described elsewhere, afford an insight into the mode of construction and planning which followed that of the keep. At Eltham the outer safeguards are less formidable. In place of the raised double bailey is a moat only, dug out of the soil, well supplied with spring water, and having a right-angle turn at each of its four corners. The approach is over a bridge directly facing the door of the hall. Unlike the Norman keep, where the Great Hall was situated above for safety, that of Eltham Palace is on the ground level, and, in place of the flat roof of the earlier hall, there is a high-pitched one of the open timber variety constructed entirely of oak. The hall remains with roof and walls complete, as may be observed from the illustrations.

This mediæval palace, remodelled in Tudor days, was at that period enlarged and partially refaced with brick.

Many examples of the Tudor plan are dealt with here, including those of a less commanding type, such as were inhabited by, though not especially erected for, the princes who found it convenient to remove from place to place for political or domestic reasons.

With the introduction of fire-arms, the security of keeps and embattled castles, earthworks and moated towers, departed; fleetness of foot rather than boldness of front was the order of the day; for no structure, however strongly built, could withstand bombardment by cannon for any length of time.

The Wars of the Roses brought to an end the ceaseless hammering at the gates, and there now began for England a period of comparative peace; thereby the wealthy were enabled to build their homes to plans which have remained convenient generally to this day.

Hitherto every house, both small and great, contained one chief room—the hall, an all-important place of meeting, eating and sleeping. The hall, in fact, was not infrequently the house, to all intents and purposes, and its name suffices to-day for the designation of many a mansion.

In every castle, college or manor-house it is the hall, centrally placed, that is entitled to be considered the chief architectural feature of importance; it was the place in which the sovereigns and princes held their banquets, witnessed the performance of plays, or listened to the lute, vielle and virginal; for these reasons the hall claims the reader's special attention, in order that the life of the times may be visualized.

"The great hall," says an authority on the subject, "has usually a beautiful framed roof of timber. In this respect the English halls stand alone, no wooden roofs on the Continent being comparable with them. The largest and grandest is that of the King's Palace of Westminster, as rebuilt by Richard II,

and which appears to have formed the type on which most of the subsequent roofs were framed.

"There are few features of mediæval art in this country to which attention could be more profitably directed than this type of roof; for it is essentially a home-grown product, both in execution and application, and is one of the most characteristic and appropriate manifestations of our national art. For more than five centuries all the best intellects of the nation were more or less directed towards perfecting this great architectural feature. Priests and laymen worked with master masons, painters and sculptors, and all were bent on producing the best possible building, and improving every part and every detail, till the amount of thought and contrivance accumulated in any single great structure is almost incomprehensible."

Until Tudor times no noticeable foreign influence was brought to bear upon either the plan or the elevation of the English dwelling, be it the King's palace or the peasant's cottage. Italian artists were imported by Henry III and Henry VIII, but chiefly as decorators, to carve or paint foreign detail upon a native groundwork. Before the Stuarts reigned, some German influence can be traced in the elaborately carved woodwork decorating a few great houses both inside and out. The only really new features introduced before then were the grand staircase and the "Long Gallery"; the latter in the form of an imposing corridor, frequently running from end to end of the house on an upper floor, and usually carpeted or matted throughout its entire length.

This stately apartment was useful in many ways, for not only did it form a convenient passage to the ever-increasing number of bedrooms—now more commodiously arranged than formerly—but it also provided a place for gentle exercise of an indoor character even up to as late a date as the middle of the seventeenth century. Samuel Pepys frequently alludes to the

fact that His Majesty spoke to him while walking in the matted gallery in White Hall Palace.

Hitherto many romping games, such as blind-man's-buff and hide-and-seek, had their centre in the great hall, but with the steady decline in the popularity of this lofty apartment the necessity for some substitute became apparent, hence the long gallery, designed as a meeting-place for the Sovereign with his officers of State, or the lord with his dependents.

Dramatic representation had formerly been enacted in the hall, with its convenient openings in the screens. All plays being written and staged in accordance with such restrictions, corpses and other impedimenta had invariably to be carried off for concealment at the end of a scene!

With the desire for less restricted performances under cover, theatres, to which the public were admitted, sprang up, but at first only near the palace of Eltham, in the city of London, and in the borough of Southwark, where a Thames-side strip, exempt from taxation, was utilized, not only for plays, but also for bear-baiting, cock-fighting and other sports, all frequently patronized by royalty.

Music, always one of the chief joys and recreation of princes, who not infrequently became themselves executants, was performed in the galleries over the screens in the hall, and subsequently, when such places were available, in the long gallery. There is, or was, in one such apartment, a wall inscription, running thus :

> "Rare and ever to be wisht may sounde heere
> Instruments wch fainte sprites and muses cheere,
> Composing for the Body, Sowle, and Eare,
> Which sickness, and Fowle Spirits feare."

Neither the Stuarts nor William of Orange cared much for the now deserted rural retreats of the Tudors, Hampton Court Palace being almost their only place of residence near London,

the former adding gardens, while "Dutch William," as he was called, planned the destruction of this gloriously irregular pile in favour of something more akin to the flat-faced buildings known to him in the Low Countries of his upbringing. The timely intervention of Providence alone prevented complete disaster.

There is relatively little of note to record during the Hanoverian period and later, for neither the erection nor the destruction of palaces was any more the habit of the day. The houses at Kew, and others at Chiswick and in Richmond Park and Esher were converted to the uses of the Royal Family as occasion demanded, the Maids of Honour Row at Richmond and White Lodge being the exceptions to the rule.

# CHAPTER II

## HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER

" At eve, within yon studious nook,
I ope my brass-embossed book,
Pourtray'd with many a holy deed
Of martyrs, crown'd with heavenly meed ;
Then, as my taper waxes dim,
Chant, ere I sleep, my measur'd hymn."

WARTON.

THE history of the abodes of the Royal Families of England goes back to legendary times. The heroic doings of kings, and the sufferings of distressed princesses, were recited of old by strolling poet-musicians with ever growing enthusiasm, and, while they sang, poetic licence was no doubt indulged in to its full extent, actual facts were embellished, and history distorted to such a pitch that it has now become impossible to sever truth from fiction.

Havering-atte-Bower ! The very name suggests the haunt of fairies and the songs of birds : of the former we learn of a saintly supernatural appearance, and of the latter there is a sad story to relate, for, within this Bower, nightingales once sang to their heart's content, but were for ever silenced by the curses of a king. The legend says that " The place abounded so with warbling nightingales " that their song disturbed the devotions of the Saxon King, Edward the Confessor, who, in his prayers, " earnestly petitioned their absence " from the glades which run down the gentle hills at Havering. Henceforth the credulous have believed that these little brown birds were never again seen or heard within the royal park, although abundantly numerous and vocal in the neighbouring woods.

Among other legends of pre-Conquest days, there is one which affirms that the origin of the place-name was derived from a ring given to King Edward by a pilgrim. The story runs as follows :

" St. John the Evangelist, disguised as an old beggar man, asked alms of the king and received from him a ring, being the only possession he (Edward) had at that moment to bestow. Some years afterwards it was returned to him by two English pilgrims with a prophecy that he should die within six months. These said pilgrims, whilst travelling in the Holy Land, had lost their way and saw a company of wayfarers clothed in white, carrying lights before them, followed by two ancient men. The Englishmen, after being directed on their journey towards Bethlehem, discovered, to their amazement, that their chief guide was St. John the Evangelist, who said, ' Say ye untoe Edwarde, your king, that I grete him well by the token that he gaaf to me this rynge with hys owne hands, at the hallowyng of my chirche ; which rynge ye shall deliver hym agayne, and, say ye to hym, that he dysposes his goodes, for wythin few monethes he shall be in the joy of heven wyth me, where he shall have his rewarde for hys chastite, and for hys goode lyvinge.' "

The message and the ring were subsequently delivered to King Edward at his Bower, which on that account was named " Have-Rynge."

This story of King Edward and the ring is represented, in sculptured figures, on the screen which separates the chapel of St. Edward from the High Altar of Westminster Abbey, near the tomb where the body of the saint rests. The famous ring, removed from the King's finger, is now deposited among the precious relics of Westminster Abbey.

It is imagined by many visitors to Edward the Confessor's shrine that the body of the saint lies buried beneath it, but this is not the case. On several occasions after dining with the Dean, the writer, in company with other guests, has been led

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR'S TREE,
HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER.

by candlelight into the Abbey from the Deanery and thence up to the triforium from which altitude the reputed coffin of the King can be seen, its position being at the top of the shrine. It is conjectured that, the lid of the coffin being thus exposed to view, there was less likelihood of any disturbance of the saintly bones being attempted by seekers after relics. Not feeling entirely convinced of the story, but wishing to verify the assertion, the writer was able to make further investigation, in order to reassure himself, during a lucky visit to the Abbey while some repairs were being made to the cedar-wood screen placed above the four sides of the coffin by Queen Mary I during her disturbed reign. A great red velvet covering was unfortunately spread over the beautiful little structure in recent years, entirely hiding the top of the shrine. This encumbrance having been removed, ostensibly for cleaning purposes, the longed-for opportunity arose, and the writer, having borrowed a ladder, climbed up to the ledge above the stone cornice and peered anxiously inside the cedar enclosure. The great iron-bound stone coffin which was then revealed to view is undoubtedly the very same that contains the body of the saint and such portions of the Regalia as have not been stolen or otherwise removed. Neither the workman on the spot nor the foreman of the works was aware of this startling fact, so the ladder was quickly removed while the intruder vanished out of sight, tingling with the strange experience of having had the privilege of placing himself, for a moment, so very near the sacred bones of St. Edward.

On the death of Edward the Confessor, Havering-atte-Bower became the possession of his successor, Harold, and subsequently of William the Conqueror. It was a favourite residence of the earlier monarchs, being delightfully situated, with fine views and extensive prospects over a great part of Essex, Herts, Kent, Surrey and Middlesex.

Havering Park contained a thousand acres and, besides the

King's house, there was another residence at Pirgo, not far distant, which usually belonged to the Queens of England, where they frequently resided, or retired during their widowhood.

Pirgo formed a portion of the Queen's jointure. It was enjoyed by Eleanor, Edward I's Queen, and from the record of that time it appears that there was also a park attached. Anne, Queen of Richard II, held Pirgo in dower. Another Dowager, Joan, Henry IV's widow, lived and died there. In Queen Elizabeth's reign Lady Katherine Grey, sister of Lady Jane, was permitted to reside at Pirgo.

There is a curious story concerning Havering-atte-Bower and King Richard II. It runs thus :

" On a day the Kynge, in maner as goyng a huntyng rode from Haveryng of Bour, a XX myle from London, in Essex, and wythin XX myle of Plasshey, where the Duke of Gloucester helde hys house. After dyner, the kynge departed from Haveryng with a small companie : The weder was fayre and hote. So the kynge came sodainly thyder about the tyme that the Duke of Gloucester had supper."

This was the occasion when Richard planned the murder of the Duke, a bloody deed which actually took place as the King rode that night towards London.

Edward IV hunted here on one occasion when " lowlinesse and gentlenesse had so far furth in hym encreased that beeynge at Haverynge at the bower, he sente for the Maire and aldermen of London thether onely to hunte and make pastyme, where he made them not so hertye but so familiare and frendly chere, and sent also to their wives such plenty of venison, that no one thyng in many daies before gatte hym either more hartes or more hertie favour amongst the comon people, which often tymes more esteme and take for greate kindnesse a little courtesie then a greate profite or benefite."

In the days of Henry VIII Havering was usually visited during the hunting season, and on one such occasion the King

was desired by the Queen to bring to his " Manour of Havering in Essex, to the Bower there, the Gentlemen of France that were Hostages, for whose Welcome the Court would provide all things in a liberal manner." The entertainment seems to have included a masque, a ball, and finally a distribution of gifts, presented by the king " where he liked."

The young Prince Edward sometimes resided here, and his half-sister, Elizabeth, frequently spent a few days at the Bower throughout her reign. On the last occasion she confirmed to the inhabitants of Havering their privilege of freedom from purveyors.

In 1588 Lord Leicester wrote to inform the Queen that Tilbury, where the troops were assembling to repel the expected assault of the Spanish Armada, being but fourteen miles from Havering, the latter was a convenient place for her " to lie in by the way; and thus far it may please Your Majesty to withdraw yourself to your house at Havering. Your Majesty has 2000 horses well lodged at Romford and other villages near."

Elizabeth's successor, James, being also fond of the chase, would come over from Theobalds at the end of each season.

Bishop Godfrey Goodman reports " that King James's son, Prince Henry, died not without vehement suspicion of poison, this I can say of my own knowledge. The king's custom was to make an end of his hunting at his house at Havering in Essex. Prince Henry did then accompany him ; I was beneficed in the next parish of Stapleford-Abbots ; many of our brethren, the neighbour-ministers, came to hear the sermon before the king, and some of us did then say, looking upon Prince Henry, that certainly he had some great distemper in his body."

The palace was no more visited by royalty ; but it remained standing until after the Commonwealth. In the reign of Charles I the chief thing recorded of Havering is the despatch of " some peaches & a feuwe nicktarrins & graps " for the royal table.

By the middle of the eighteenth century parts of the walls were to be seen, "but not enough to show its original form or extent." "Not a vestige" was there early in the nineteenth century.

The situation chosen for the Bower of King Edward was on the southern slope of a considerable hill overlooking the valley of the lower Thames, the view extending for many miles across Surrey, Hertfordshire and Middlesex. The actual position is now marked by a seventeenth-century house underneath which a subterranean passage leads, it is said, to another house on the hill where a castle once stood.

Pirgo Park is on still higher ground, the well-marked site of the palace and moat commands a prospect over the Essex Weald. On the summit of the hill stands a gigantic tree, called Queen Elizabeth's oak, where a seat has been placed under its branches. The following reply was received to a question from the writer to a man ploughing the adjoining field: "I 'ear say that a queen once did a bit o' coortin' under that there tree, but I never 'ear tell if she got married a'ter it." The legend probably refers to Elizabeth and Leicester, who were here together.

In spite of the claim made by the inhabitants of Havering to the ancient royal chapel in which their families had worshipped for many hundreds of years, there is now no trace of it to be found. The only remaining clue to the position of this building is the ancient tree upon the village green, marking the place upon which the Confessor is supposed to have rested before he attended vespers. Not a vestige remains of any early structure at Havering, but each historic site is traceable by the trees growing near it. Great stag-headed oaks surround the Bower, elms mark the boundaries of the dry moat of Pirgo, while St. Edward and Queen Elizabeth respectively give their name to venerable single specimens on the crest of Havering Hill.

## CHAPTER III

### GUILDFORD CASTLE

" In rough magnificence array'd
When ancient Chivalry display'd
The pomp of her heroic games ;
And crested chiefs, and tissued dames,
Assembled, at the clarion's call,
In some proud castle's high-arched hall."

WARTON.

THE earliest mention of Guildford as a royal possession is in a document known as the Will of King Alfred, wherein that Prince bequeathed the property to his nephew Æthelwald, on whose rebellion or death (which happened about five years after) it was to revert to the Crown.

The first legend connected with the doings of royalty at Guildford is one concerning a terrible massacre. Ælfred and Edward, sons of Æthelred by his second wife, were candidates for the English throne, and, according to Bray in his history of Surrey, the elder of these was invited from Normandy to England by King Harold, and after crossing the Channel was conducted through Kent and part of Surrey to Guildford, accompanied by a great train of Normans. Here they were for a time kept in confinement, more as prisoners than invited guests, and here was enacted " as bloody and inhuman a scene as had ever been exhibited, for, having been kept close prisoners at Gildford, they were, early one morning, brought forth into the public streets and appointed unto slaughter. In order to this, they underwent a decimation, by which the tenth only was preserved ; and, this tenth, another of the same kind : so that, of 600 Normans who accompanied the Prince on this occasion,

not more than six escaped the fury of the merciless Barbarians. They even sported with their miseries ; and by every lingering torment that the very wantonness of cruelty could devise, and the most abandoned ferocity could execute protracted there various agonies to the very last moment."

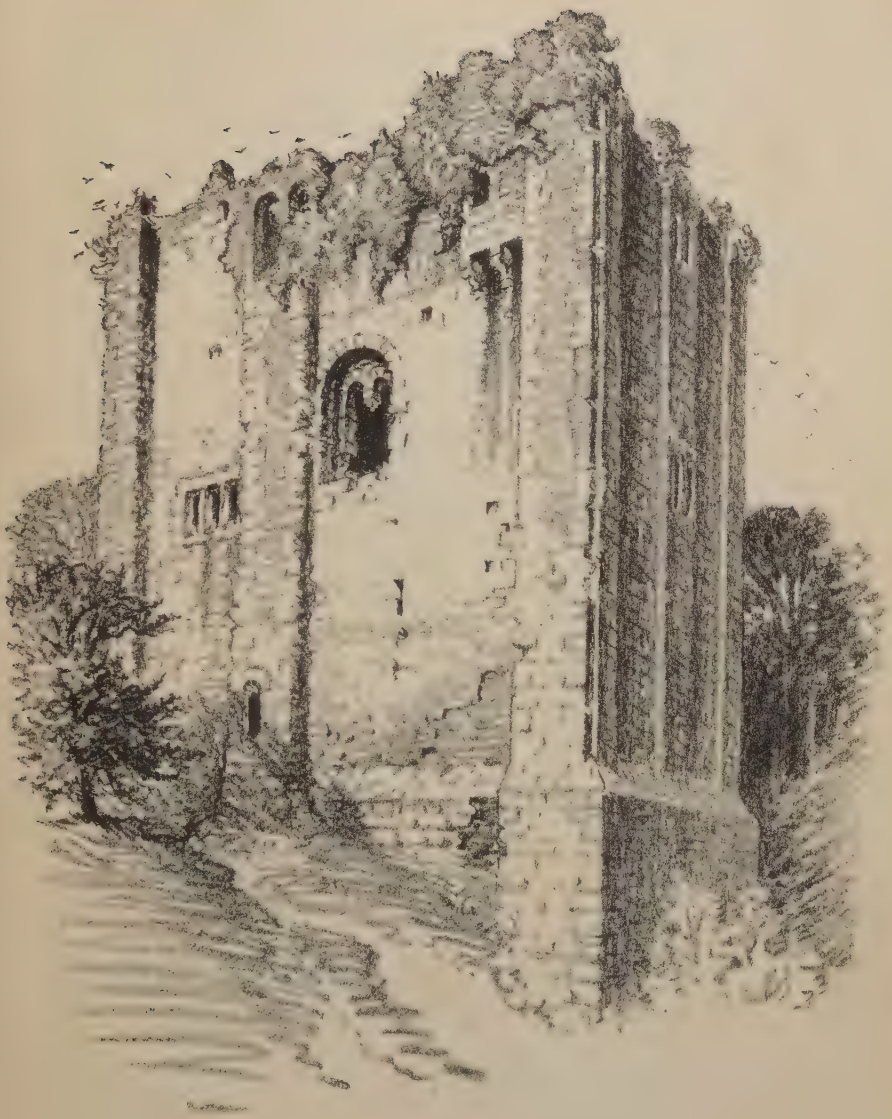
The unfortunate Prince Ælfred had his eyes put out, and it is devoutly to be hoped that he was therefore saved from witnessing the ghastly spectacle of the wholesale murder of his friends, and the gloatings of the mob surrounding them. The historian, after further details, says that he will spare the reader the description of the tortures inflicted upon this helpless band of Normans.

The situation of Guildford being naturally suitable for a post of attack and defence, the castle, originally an earthwork, was therefore constructed at the end of a spur of one range of hills, near where the River Wey cuts through, and faced a second ridge stretching from east to west: an important point this, near that ancient bridlepath, the Pilgrims' Way, still traceable between Canterbury and Winchester and onwards to Old Sarum. The artificial mound on which the keep stands is suggestive of an early motte-castle.

The great keep at Guildford is the most important Norman building in Surrey. It is constructed chiefly of Bargate stone from the quarries at Godalming: a hard-grained yellow sandstone, varying in colour from golden yellow to a purple tint which makes it of pleasing effect. The appearance of lighter and darker sections, looking like plums and almonds, have given it the name of " pudding-stone."

Guildford Castle is of the Mount and Bailey type, belonging, perhaps, to an era prior to the Norman Conquest. The mound was raised by cutting a ditch through the spur of the chalk hill and piling up the excavated earth upon the outer edge.

The central position is taken up by a square keep of the twelfth century, and constitutes the principal building now



GUILDFORD CASTLE.

left; close by are the remains of a shell keep of earlier date, and fragments, possibly of a hall and kitchen, of the same period.

The main entrance to the castle is in Quarry Street, a side turning leading from the lower end of Guildford High Street, Here stands a mediæval gatehouse, known as the Castle Arch. On the higher ground to the east are walls of twelfth and thirteenth century buildings; these, in all probability, constituted the royal palace proper, of which so many documentary details are preserved. All four sides of the keep have buttresses, those at the angle being slightly higher than the rest of the wall. This building, which dominated the whole range, was four stories high, and is to-day but little short of its original dimensions. The lowest floor was originally designed as a prison and is accessible only from the floor above. The usual custom in Norman castles of having the entrance on the first floor was adhered to at Guildford.

The doorway of the keep is slightly pointed and is of two orders, and leads into a passage with a rough barrel-vaulted ceiling. As in similar keeps, there are small rooms within the thickness of the walls; these include a chapel, or oratory, also vaulted. On the walls here are a number of very interesting scratched designs, no doubt drawn, as might be done to-day, by persons tired of being kept waiting. Among these representations may be seen St. Christopher, the Crucifixion, and a king and queen seated, but it is not possible to recognize the portraiture here depicted.

The history of Guildford Castle mostly concerns the earlier mediæval period from the end of the twelfth century; it is therefore not surprising that its story is somewhat disconnected. The Wars of the Barons were not times during which the domestic hearth could be much frequented by any families of distinction; the rulers of England were more particularly subject to the incessant changes of residence consequent upon the general restlessness of the land. Events connected with

Guildford related in this chapter, and the history of other Surrey houses which come within the scope of this volume, are gathered to some extent from the Victorian History of the county.

Although Guildford was a possession of the King before the Conquest, and was referred to in the reigns of the first two Henrys and of Stephen, the earliest mention of the castle as a residence is in the time of King John, who, after his arrival from Normandy in order to be crowned King of England, went in haste through Surrey in the spring of 1200. It is therefore probable that he made his first acquaintance with Guildford during this journey.

In the same year it is known that this King celebrated Christmas and the Feast of Circumcision at Guildford with his newly-captured second wife, Isabella d'Angoulême. He was again at the castle on no less than nineteen occasions during eleven years, from choice residing here more than at any of his other houses.

Guildford Castle suffered capture by Louis of France in 1216, but it is not recorded that he was opposed nor that any siege took place here; the strong defensive walls of the keep were standing at the time of his entry into possession. The castle probably remained in the hands of Louis's party until the defeats at Lincoln and Dover compelled the French to abandon the conquest of England. The final peace was negotiated in Surrey during the following year, when a safe conduct was issued from Kingston-on-Thames for Louis to withdraw himself out of England. From early in the thirteenth century the keep was used as a county gaol. The continual residence of the sovereigns of England naturally raised the adjoining town to an importance unapproached by any other in Surrey, and Guildford became, as it still remains, the capital the county.

A tenant of the then Earl of Gloucester, Sir John d'Abernon, held the office of guardian of Guildford Castle for a period during

the Wars of the Barons; the Earl, however, was not long in transferring his allegiance, and probably the castle, to the King.

There is a picturesque incident of the civil war related by Nicholas Trivet as occurring upon the borders of Surrey. Adam de Gurdon, a baronial partisan, held Farnham Castle against the Royalists, and waged guerrilla warfare, or, brigandage, in the neighbourhood. Edward, the King's son, riding from Guildford, encountered the robber and engaged him in single combat, away from his stronghold; the prince, inducing him to submit, brought his captive to the castle of Guildford where he was received into his conqueror's service.

It would appear from the Close Rolls that Henry III chose Guildford as a favourite residence; for, at the beginning of his reign, he enclosed a royal park where the undulating land was ideal for "the sport of kings."

The custody of this park was frequently entrusted to the constable of the castle and steward of the King's manor. It contained a separate manor-house. The residence of the King was the castle, and it was here that the royal apartments were situated. Finding the domain agreeable and not content with the park alone, Henry proceeded to aforest the royal manor of Guildford, and eventually declared the whole county of Surrey to be forest land.

So important had Guildford Castle become as a royal residence that the then existing accommodation proved once more to be insufficient for housing the royal retinue, now swollen through the acquisition of so great an area of forest. After Henry III came to the throne many alterations and additions were found to be necessary inside the castle boundaries.

It was this monarch who converted the old stronghold into a palace worthy of the name. To him may be assigned buildings, the ruins of which extend to the south-west of the keep. The King's sons, with their guardians, were provided for

more adequately in this reign, as were the increasing number of attendants upon the officers of State.

The existing buildings were at that period badly in want of repair, and, when the work of restoration began, extra accommodation was planned. In 1245 the sheriff was ordered to build for the use of Edward, the King's son, a room, measuring 50 feet by 26; below this were to be rooms with barred windows for the pages-in-waiting, a fire-place and a privy chamber for each room. In the Queen's chamber the window was replaced by another and larger one set in the wall as high as reasonably possible, having two marble columns, between which were glazed lights with an opening panel, the upper part of this being boarded, and the whole provided with wooden shutters. At the end of the great hall the upper window was glazed with white glass, images of a king and queen, seated, being placed on either side.

The wainscoted bedrooms were painted green. The gardrobe of my lord Edward's bedroom was ordered to be wainscoted and a stone vault made over it, "in which our chests and relics can be placed."

A new lattice was fitted in front of St. Stephen's Chapel, and in the chapel of St. Katherine the figure of the Saint and scenes from her life were painted behind the altar, "suitably, without gold or blue."

Apparently these embellishments when completed were found to be satisfactory, for, a little later on, the hall was further beautified and a porch added. Orders were then given for the story of Dives and Lazarus to be painted opposite the King's seat and "a certain image with beasts" to be carved on the said seat. The pillars and arches of the passages were to be "marbled," the great chamber whitewashed and marked out in squares, the ceiling painted green, spangled with gold and silver. From these items, taken from the Close Rolls, it is possible to form some idea of the general appearance of a royal

GATEHOUSE, GUILDFORD CASTLE.

residence of the thirteenth century. Convenience was to a certain extent studied, for it is mentioned that a small building was erected for " the warming up of the queen's food." A very rich effect must have been produced by the wall decorations and coloured glass windows of the castle.

Henry's Queen, Eleanor of Provence, had the gardens set in order, no doubt in the Italian style, for the lay-out was devised by the King's painter, William Florentyn, and, among other architectural features introduced, was a cloister with marble columns supporting the roof. A herb garden was also provided.

Guildford Castle by this time was evidently a magnificent abode. Edward I, his son and his grandson in turn made it his favourite home.

Among the prisoners at this time incarcerated at Guildford were Robert of Artois, who was allowed certain privileges, and Richard atte Watere, a cottar, who, when taken prisoner was seized *vi et armis* by Sir Andrew de Caleys, the French constable of Queen Margaret. This official declared that he was unable to distinguish between Richard and his other prisoners. The poor cottar was therefore kept in prison for more than three months, only being released upon the payment of a heavy ransom.

Before the end of the thirteenth century a new kitchen was built at the castle, the gaol in the keep cleaned out and thirty-six pairs of fetters provided for the safe keeping of prisoners, who had been wont to escape from time to time.

As very little is known of the furniture of the royal houses of this period, it is interesting to learn that tables were now fixed in the hall at Guildford and that a solar existed in the palace and a bridge at the entrance gatehouse.

A curious item mentioned in the Rolls is that of a fireplace being added to the larder so that the building could be used as the Queen's gardrobe, when she came there.

The park, containing a separate residence, was assigned to Margaret of France, second wife of Edward I, but it reverted to the Crown under Edward II.

In the reign of Edward III, when the royal manor was granted in fee-farm to the good men (*probi homines*) of Guildford, both park and castle were reserved for the use of the Court, but the royal favour was dwindling rapidly and the fabric getting into disrepair, although not many years previously the King had built new apartments for his eldest son, the Earl of Chester (afterwards the Black Prince), together with " a chamber of damsels."

It seems that, at the moment when Guildford Castle ceased to attract, another residence, nearer London, was selected for royal favour. Eltham Palace, but seven miles out, became increasingly popular by reason of its proximity to the metropolis and its facilities for a gay life accompanied by acts of chivalry.

For some unknown reason tournaments at Guildford were at this period prohibited, a fact which may have influenced the King in seeking a home elsewhere.

There are but few references to the castle as having been resided in by any members of the Royal Family after this date. Edward IV was here in 1479, when he made a treaty with Burgundy.

The keep at Guildford, being used as a prison, must eventually have rendered the place distasteful to the princes while they were themselves housed in another part of the same castle ; for, as the prisoners increased in numbers, the visits of the King became less frequent, in spite of the fact that large sums of money had recently been lavished upon the decoration of the palace and its surroundings, where terraces were contrived along the steep banks overlooking the picturesque valley of the River Wey ; enclosed and cloistered gardens crowned the higher slopes, while pavilions stood from which views of the distant Surrey landscape might be enjoyed without interruption.

THE KEEP, GUILDFORD CASTLE.

The great pile of buildings at this period included a vast number of apartments, both for the enjoyment of each member of the Royal Family and for the convenience and comfort of the Court officials and domestics. It is interesting to observe that chimneys were provided even for the maids' rooms, where the windows were protected by iron bars, skilled men being brought from a distance to carry out the work. The estimate for this could not be stated " for lack of such workman who does not exist in the town." Amongst the many groups of chambers contained in the palace was a suite specially erected for Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, son of Edward II, who lies buried at King's Langley where much of his short but eventful life was spent. There were " Freres chambres " and rooms for the Brethren who ministered in the various chapels, " a Noricerye " chamber, an " Aumerye," a " Selar," great and lesser wardrobes, a larder, and " various other necessaries." Gatehouses with bridges stood at intervals along the encircling walls of the gardens which were divided up by wooden palings.

The palace was eventually deserted, its magnificent halls fell into disrepair, the keep alone being retained intact as a prison house for thieves and vagabonds.

In the last years of the reign of Henry VII the care of the prisoners was farmed out to a private person, who drew forty shillings a year and the fees to look after the castle. When Elizabeth was Queen, the keep finally ceased to be used as a county gaol, and through neglect it became uninhabitable.

Early in the reign of her successor to the throne Guildford Castle, then much in ruins, was granted by the Crown to Francis Carter, gent, who took up his abode in the keep ; opening up windows there, building chimneys, and repairing the old stone-work with red brick.

The royal park was again separated from the castle and granted for life to John Murray, afterwards Earl of Annandale, in 1611, and nine years later, in fee simple This grant was

confirmed, with rights of free warren, in the sixth year of Charles I. The glory of the castle and its lands had departed. The once enchanting royal abode had almost vanished; the keep—the earliest building and the only complete portion upstanding to-day—was so degraded that it became a cock-pit for the pleasure of the common people.

Happily the place is once more cared for, the ruined palace having been incorporated in a public park; the keep is shown to visitors, and the gatehouse which forms one of the illustrations contains a museum of local antiquities, including many specimens of farm implements and cottage utensils collected in the county of Surrey by Miss Gertrude Jekyll.

The ancient chalk quarries are now open for public inspection. Entered from Racks Close, where building material was cut both in prehistoric and later times, they were situated near enough to the castle for conversion into royal store houses by King John. These extensive caverns proved to be ideal places for stacking wine casks sent from the King's vineyards in France. Here was ample space also for accumulating the forfeits in kind extracted from delinquents against the royal pleasure. On one occasion a bishop was fined for the non-delivery of wine to the Guildford cellars; doubtless many another prelate reluctantly contributed of his best for replenishing his master's cups from time to time. When recently cleared of rubbish only a few dry bones were discovered where once the jolly cellarer officiated.

## CHAPTER IV

### BERKHAMPSTED

" I pray you let us satisfy our eyes
With the memories, and things of fame,
That do renown this place."

? Bacon.

BEFORE the Norman Conquest Berkhampsted Castle was a place of some importance; owing to its situation it formed a link in the chain of fortresses guarding the Thames valley. Though previously inhabited, it was strengthened by the Kings of Mercia, and afterwards by the successors of Alfred. It owes its first regular fortifications to Robert de Montaigne, who came at the Conqueror's bidding to build a keep on the hill where already existed the earthen works of the motte-castle.

Among the scattered remains of buildings left are two crumbling bits of a double wall of the outer and inner bailey, standing parallel to each other. These massive fragments of flint masonry have a history worthy of study. They have their place even in the history of England. To keep the passage between them was once a charge granted only to the greatest men of the realm. Through the adjacent gateway many a noble procession has passed. It admitted in turn King John of England and Louis of France, John of France and Richard, King of the Romans.

Like many other sites of pre-Norman origin, Berkhampsted is not without legendary tales. Tradition says that, after having journeyed through Spain, St. Paul was here, and signa-

lized his visit by an act of exorcism similar to that performed, some three centuries later, by St. Patrick in Ireland.

William the Conqueror, who is said to have been offered the Crown of England here, was at Berkhampsted before he reached London, but whether the builder of the keep was ever created Earl of Cornwall is more a matter of nomenclature than of actual historical question. It is certain, however, that from William's conquest the castle has followed the fortunes of the Earls and Dukes of Cornwall until the present day.

Henry I, having kept Christmas at Dunstable, proceeded to Berkhampsted, " where was a manifestation of God worthy of Himself," says the chronicler, Henry of Huntingdon. " Randulphus, the chancellor, to whom the king had granted the ruined castle, and who had but recently rebuilt it, was conducting the Royal party to this stronghold, where the king proposed to stay some time as his guest ; when he had reached the top of the hill from which the stately structure might be descried, and was pointing to it with great elation, he fell from his horse, and a monk rode over him. In consequence the unfortunate possessor was so bruised that he breathed his last in a few days " ; and then follows the remark, full of quaint humour, " *Ecce quanta superbia quam vilissime Deo volente deperiit.*" The castle consequently reverted to the crown.

Henry II appointed Thomas à Becket custodian, and frequently resided at Berkhampsted himself. While here the King granted the church at Havering-atte-Bower to the monastery of St. Bernard, " to make fires for the poor people there."

Prince Richard seems to have been formally invested at this place with the title of King of the Romans, which his father had borne. As Earl of Cornwall he lived much at Berkhampsted. From here he set out on his great expeditions, first to the Holy Land and afterwards on a scarcely less ambitious errand ; this was to Germany in quest of the crown of the Romans ; an honour, says W. J. Loftie, in his " Rambles In and Near

BERKHAMPSTED CASTLE.

London," the prince obtained in 1257, after having lavished much of the treasure gathered from the English Jews.

When King of the Romans, Richard continued to live at Berkhampsted, to which place he brought successively his three wives. The first was one of the co-heiresses of the Marshals, Earls of Pembroke, and the widow of Gilbert de Clare. She died in child-bed at the castle, and perhaps it was owing to his grief that her husband assumed the cross. On his return to England, after three years' widowhood, he married Sanchia, one of four queens, daughters of Raymond, Count of Provence. After sixteen years exile from the sunny skies of her native land, she too died at Berkhampsted, having lost all her children except one, Edmund, who survived his father but died childless.

Richard's last wife was, according to most accounts, the niece of Archbishop Conrad of Cologne, and she survived her husband.

Here, in the spring of 1272, Richard, King of the Romans, Count of Poictou, and Earl of Cornwall, died; his body being conveyed from Berkhampsted to Hales Abbey for interment, and his heart to the church of the Friars Minor at Oxford.

In 1300 his only son died, when the County of Cornwall, with the castle of Berkhampsted, reverted to the crown of England.

Edward I made the castle the dower of his second wife, and is further posthumously connected with the place, because one of the letters of Edward III, dated from Berkhampsted, refers to the renewal of the cerecloth of his grandfather—"*de cera renovanda circa corpus Edwardi Primi.*"

By Edward II the castle was granted to Piers Gaveston. It was here that the much honoured favourite married the King's niece. Edward himself was present, and the festivities were celebrated on a magnificent scale.

At this period John Froissart came to the castle and subsequently wrote: "In my younger days I visited at a mansion

called Berkhampsted, which belonged to the Prince of Wales, father of King Richard. I was at the time 24 years old and was Clerk of the Chamber to my Lady the Queen. During this time, as I was seated on a bench, I heard the following conversation from an ancient knight (Sir Bartholomew Burghersh) to some ladies of the Queen. He said there was a book called Brut, which many say contains prophecies of Merlin. According to the contents neither the Prince of Wales (Black Prince) nor Duke of Clarence, will wear the crown of England, but it will fall to the house of Lancaster. When the knight said this the Earl of Derby was not born: his birth was seven years afterwards. This prophecy however was verified, for I have since seen Henry Earl of Derby king of England."

After the departure of the Black Prince, Berkhampsted Castle was for a time the residence of his captive, John, King of France, as was also Eltham Palace, Kent. Subsequently the Prince returned, choosing to pass the latter years of his life in comparative seclusion, amid the scenes associated with his earlier and happier days. The Black Prince finally departed shortly before his death in London.

During the reign of Richard II the poet Chaucer held the appointment of Clerk of the Works at Berkhampsted. On the death of the King the ancient prophecy of Merlin was duly fulfilled. Henry of Lancaster granted the castle to his eldest son (afterwards the famous Henry V), whom he created Duke of Cornwall. From him it passed to Henry VI, who was in residence with the judges when the news of the second battle of St. Albans was received.

Edward IV gave many privileges to the town of Berkhampsted, and this King's mother—who survived him—was the last great person to reside at the castle before it became neglected and finally abandoned as a royal residence.

Cicely, Duchess of York, daughter of the head of the Neville family, and niece of Henry IV, was the aunt of the King-maker,

and sister of five peers of the realm; last, but not least, she was the mother of two kings. To quote Mr. Loftie, "'Proud Cis' was a woman of sufficient talent to keep her high position all her long life, and of sufficient strength to survive the misfortunes which in those days seemed appropriate to high rank. Her husband, her brother, and her second son, all perished after the fatal field of Wakefield, yet she survived to see another son put to death by his own brother, and a third slain in battle. She outlived Bosworth nearly eleven years. Before her death she saw her eldest son's heiress on the throne, and the young Henry—who, after bearing for a time the title which had been her husband's, was destined to extinguish in the blood of her granddaughter the last fading glimmer of the great Plantagenet name—had reached the age of five years.

"Cicely, Duchess of York, after seeing her granddaughter's husband put his wife to death and her daughter take up the cause of an impostor, died" (and no wonder!) "full of honour and all the attendants of honour, after a life which, viewed in the perspective of four centuries, appears, according to the light turned upon it, either such a long tragedy, or else such a course of prosperity, as is unexampled in our annals. She was buried at Fotheringay beside her husband, whom she survived nearly thirty-five years."

At the time of the death of Duchess Cicely in 1496, a new dynasty, the house of Tudor, had become firmly established on the throne in the person of Henry VII, who, wisely, had married the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV, and granddaughter of Cicely. Berkhampsted had then ceased to be inhabited by the Royal Family. When Leland, the antiquary, visited the castle it was "much in ruine."

Queen Elizabeth granted it on lease to Sir Edward Carey who, with the old materials, built a new house on the top of the neighbouring hill. The rental value of the old castle was fixed at but "a red rose" annually, a sadly small estimate to

be placed upon the venerable stronghold, with its triple moat.

The last event connecting Berkhampsted and royalty seems to have been that of the residence of Peter the Wild Boy, who, having been found in Hanover and sent to England as a curiosity to George II, lived here till his death in 1785.

Approached from the town along Castle Street, the castle of Berkhampsted was until recently seen through a wilderness of trees and clumps of ivy, which, together, were fast destroying the remains of the massive flint walls of the inner bailey. The outer bailey was sadly overgrown and the moat choked with rushes. The great enclosure within the walls is occupied by a grass plot, kept tidy as a sports ground, but the chief feature of the castle was almost masked from view by tall trees and tangled undergrowth, as will be observed from the illustration. This steep and lofty motte, impressive after centuries of neglect, stands erect above its deep encircling moat in fair preservation. Great blocks of flint masonry, impregnable in their day, recline at the edge of the earthworks, laid low and defeated at last by vegetation, after having for many generations resisted the repeated attacks of men.

The castle is now in the hands of H.M.'s Office of Works; trees have been felled and ivy removed from the tottering walls. These massive structures have the appearance of hasty construction: they are bound together with inferior material and have no foundation. The original entrance from the south is to be re-conditioned and a bridge built over the triple moat as an approach.

Many objects throwing light upon its history have been dug up during the excavations here. The position of rooms and towers has been traced. A well thirty feet deep, and a fireplace with herring-bone tiled back are situated within the encircling wall of the motte. Among the finds are some beautiful mediæval tiles with red and buff designs of animals and

tracery. Within the chapel enclosure lay a great iron key and some early English money. A coin of the Emperor Caligula, together with characteristic bricks and heaps of oyster shells point to a possible Roman occupation prior to the erection of the Saxon castle of Berkhampsted.

# CHAPTER V

## KING'S LANGLEY

" That Edmonde hyght of Langley of good chere,
Glad and mery and of his owne ay lyued ;
Without wronge as chronicles haue breued ;
When all [the] lordes to councell and parlyament
[Went] he woulde to hunte and also to hawekyng ;
All gentyll disporte, [as to a lorde] appent,
He used aye and to the pore supportyng."

HARDYNG'S " Chronicle."

IN the church of All Saints, King's Langley, lies the body of Prince Edmund, an ancestor of our present sovereign. It rests in a simple altar tomb of stone, decorated only with heraldic shields. Formerly in the chapel of the neighbouring monastery, this relic is the chief tangible survival of a friary, once the richest house of its kind in England.

Edmund, upon whom was conferred the dukedom of York in 1385, was the great-grandfather of Edward IV. Among his other titles were Earl of Cambridge and Knight of the Garter. The fifth son of King Edward III and Queen Philippa, Edmund was born at King's Langley in 1341. Through his second son, Richard, who married his cousin, Lady Anne Mortimer, he became ancestor of the Yorkist Kings, Edward IV, Edward V and Richard III, and of Elizabeth of York, whose marriage to Henry Tudor united the Red and White Roses of the rival aspirants to the throne of England.

It is interesting, in the light of recent events, to note that the creation referred to was the first instance of the dukedom of York occurring in the English Royal Family.

The friars, who at the bidding of the King came to the royal manor, were lodged near the parish church, where Edward III

KING'S LANGLEY.

gave them a garden. Afterwards they were permitted to build a house in the park, and finally, in 1316, were granted the manor-house itself.

Later Kings may have built themselves a new house close by, in which to rest from time to time. The manor of King's Langley was probably used mostly for hunting and the house resided in only for short periods, either for sport or as a halting place between London and the more extensive and better protected castle of Berkhampsted but a few miles to the north of it.

Henry III is the first monarch whose name is connected with King's Langley. In his reign the manor formed part of the Duchy of Cornwall. It extended over a considerable portion of wooded country, sufficient for feeding "two hundred and forty hogs."

The manor-house was occupied often enough to make the name of King's Langley occur in charters dated in the fourteenth century; for a time, also, an English King lay buried in the chapel of the friars within the manor. The body of Richard II rested at Langley for fourteen years, and was eventually removed "with reaverence and solempnnytie" and conveyed to the tomb in Westminster Abbey which the King had set up during his lifetime, there to "be buryed by Queen Anna his wyfe."

Richard's godson, the grandfather of Edward IV, although, like his father, was probably born at Langley, left little mark upon the history of the place. The tomb of Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, and the fact that Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, was buried here and exhumed, are among the chief points of history associated with the place. Both Edmund and Piers were interred in the Priory chapel. The body of the prince was transferred, together with his tomb, to the parish church, after the suppression of the monastery. The covering slab was raised in 1878, when this fine altar tomb was found to contain the

skeletons of a man and two women, possibly those of the Duke, of Isabel of Castile, his first wife, and of Anne, the wife of his second son. The thirteen shields of arms carved upon three sides of the tomb, and relating to the birth, titles and marriage of Edmund, are beautiful examples of fourteenth-century heraldry.

By what happy chain of events the body of the first royal Duke of York was recovered and preserved is not known. As Queen Elizabeth was jealous of royal dignity, and as Edmund of Langley was the paternal ancestor of her grandmother, Elizabeth of York, it may have been owing to her direct intervention that the monument and its contents were rescued amid the general destruction of monastic buildings.

King's Langley, after generations of neglect, ceased to be royal in the early seventeenth century. Prince Edmund's tomb now rests behind a screen in the parish church; it is placed north and south. The memorial window above, which repeats the coats of arms, was erected by the Duke of York's descendant, Queen Victoria.

The edible fish in the river running through the royal manor seem to have been specially reserved for the King's table. In the reign of Henry IV there was a presentation made by the bailiff against Thomas Fisshere, farmer of the land by the river, for a trespass on the King, because he took certain fish called " trowghtes " by putting " lepes " with the stream of the water and not against it, as of right he should. All the fish so caught should have been reserved for the royal kitchen.

When the plague devastated London in 1349, the King held his court at Langley. In 1396 Richard II kept Christmas there, receiving " with honour but not with love " the Duke of Lancaster, who had been summoned from Aquitaine.

On the crest of a gentle hill, above the village, the manor-house and priory of King's Langley were situated. At this spot wide prospects of the surrounding country might be enjoyed by

GATEHOUSE, KING'S LANGLEY.

the princes and ecclesiastics who resided in one or other of these buildings. After the lapse of centuries, during which the place became a quarry, it is to-day not easy for the visitor to determine the extent of the buildings or the actual subdivisions between the royal lodgings, the quarters of the prior and the monks who ministered to the spiritual and temporal needs of the members of the Royal Family when in residence at the manor. Surrounded by fields and nestling in a pleasant cherry orchard near a leafy lane, the scanty remains now standing include a fast crumbling fragment of a gate-house composed of flint and stone, and, at some little distance, an impressive range of buildings lighted by traceried windows and having an exposed timber roof of king-post construction. Adjoining, and standing at right angles, is another range with a wide archway in its outer wall. When visited by the writer, children's voices chanting an ancient tune were heard echoing from the walls of this remnant of departed greatness, now converted into a school.

At the close of the sixteenth century the gate-house of the palace was intact, but in 1728 a writer, in describing this building, observes "Here the rubbish of royalty exists." Curiously enough, after the lapse of another two hundred years, there is to-day a pile of rubbish heaped against the ruined walls.

# CHAPTER VI

## ELTHAM IN THE MIDDLE AGES

"I'll see these things! they're rare and passing curious—
But this 'tis ever; what's within our ken
Owl-like, we blink at, and direct our search
To farthest India in quest of novelties;
Whilst here, at home, upon our very thresholds,
Ten thousand objects hurtle into view,
Of Int'rests wonderful."

Old Play.

THE Old Kent Road, merging into the Folkestone Road, winds through Lewisham to Lee; beyond is Middle Park, one of the parks of Eltham Palace. On the hill above, and opposite the Eltham parish church, is an open space still called "The Courtyard." After a short distance this space narrows down and leads directly under an avenue of limes, past a row of old houses, half hidden behind a wall, eventually terminating in a bridge above a moat which suddenly comes into view. This bridge is the only approach to the royal palace. Until recently the main portion of the great building still standing was called locally, "King John's Barn," and used as a cart-shed, later to be converted into a full-length lawn tennis court, so little regarded was this fine possession. To-day this hall stands empty and forlorn, but patched up somewhat in preparation, it is to be hoped, for a more thorough repair.

It is a noteworthy fact that Eltham was a residence of the Kings of England for 300 years. Perhaps the first monarch to visit this royal manor was Henry III in the year 1270, an event chronicled by Matthew Paris at the end of the thirteenth century. No record has yet been discovered of an earlier prince residing in the neighbourhood. The house must have been

of considerable importance and nobility from the start, seeing that it was the home of the great Baron John de Vesci, and that it possessed sufficient accommodation for the entertainment of the King in state at that time.

Henry III's son, Edward I, signed several charters at Eltham, and his reign is an important period in the history of the castle, as at first termed, because it was then that Anthony Bek, or Beke, came into temporary possession of the property, and wrought the improvements associated with his name.

Bek, who, with his retinue, made a great impression when visiting the Pope in Rome, had great riches. He held as many as five benefices in the Province of Canterbury alone. The Barony of Alnwick was sold by him to Henry Percy, whose descendant, the Duke of Northumberland, is the present owner.

Edward I presented Eltham to John, son of William de Vesci, a potent baron of the North, who had, in the previous year, married Isabel de Beaumont, Queen Eleanor's kinswoman. John de Vesci, whose only son died, having no lawful issue, enfeoffed that great prelate Anthony Bek in the inheritance of Eltham.

It is not known of what the original building consisted, but it is recorded that Bek " built the castle of Eltham and gave it to the Queen." In the castle of his own building Bek drew his last breath.

After the death of Edward I his weak and wayward son, Edward II, brought his Queen, " Isabella the Fair," to Eltham prior to the state entry into London for their coronation. They both resided much at Eltham before the disastrous domestic events of this reign began. Their son, John of Eltham, was born in the palace in 1316, and Isabella received permission, as a widow, to dwell here " whenever her health required a change of air."

From all accounts it appears that, owing to its pleasant elevated position, sheltered from the north and east and enjoying

wide views to the south-west, Eltham was considered to be a most desirable residence for those requiring rest and for the upbringing of the royal children.

In connection with the baptism of Prince John of Eltham there is, in the wardrobe accounts of the time, an inventory which throws a light on the customs of the day at such functions. Amongst other items it is surprising, at this early date, to find that a piece of Turkey carpet was included ; this rug, together with some lengths of Cloth of Gold, was delivered to John de Founteney for decorating the font of the chapel of Eltham where the young prince was baptized, and to Stephen Faloyce, the Queen's tailor, five pieces of white velvet for making a robe against the churching of the Queen.

The young Prince John did not live much beyond man's estate to enjoy life at the place of his birth, for on January 15th, 1337, his dead body was interred in St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, where his tomb may yet be seen. John of Eltham was the last son of any King of England who died an earl.

One of the King's favourites, Sir Hugh Courtnay by name, after having served with distinction in the wars with France and Scotland, diverted himself in company with other "martialists" in waging mimic warfare at Eltham. At a tournament held in the grounds beyond the moat, the king presented him with "an Hood of White Cloth, embroidered with men in the posture of dancers, buttoned with large pearls."

Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward III, received most of his education at Eltham, and here, subsequently, with his councillors around him, he held several parliaments. It was also at the gates of the palace that this monarch received, in voluntary exile, King John of France, who had once been a prisoner here.

Froissart, the French poet, who later came himself to

Eltham, gives an account of King John's capture on the battle-field of France, in which these lines occur :

> " Edward, the Flower of chivalry,
> Whilom the Black Prince hight,
> Who previous took the French King John,
> In claim of Grandame's right."

He also relates the events of this unhappy monarch's reception by the English King and Queen, when, after having been rejected by his own subjects, he returned voluntarily to the place of his imprisonment.

The French historian writes : " News was brought to the king of England, who, at the time was at Eltham with his queen, Philippa of Hainault, a very magnificent palace which the king possessed, seven miles from London, that the king of France had landed at Dover. The third day, he (John) set out, taking the road to London, where the king of England was, with a number of lords, ready to receive him. It was a Sunday afternoon, when he arrived, and there was, therefore, between this time and supper time, many good dances and carols. I can never relate," adds Froissart, who was of the party, " how very honourably and majestically the King and Queen of England received King John."

It is evident that poor King John's troubles were drowned in mirth, if in nothing stronger, that evening, amidst the time-honoured merry-making of Eltham.

Froissart, impressed with the jollity of life in this neighbourhood, exclaims that

> " Betwixt Eltham and Westminster,
> Yestreen I saw a meddow fair,
> Wherein a band of shepherds were,
> In merry guise and deboneur.
> And therewith, many a shepherd maid
> Went dancing as the pipe was played."

The Order of the Garter is supposed to have been finally established at Eltham during a tournament in 1347. In the Royal Warrant accounts of that date there is this :

" For making 12 Garters of Blue, embroidered with Gold and Silk, each having the Motto, ' Honi Soit qui mal y pense ' ; and of making other equipments for the King's Joust at Eltham."

Thirty years later the same King, Edward III, was lying sick at his palace of Eltham, and here it was that he summoned Parliament, the occasion being that of creating the young Richard Prince of Wales.

According to Holinshed, Eltham Palace is the place in which was enacted the famous scene of the leave-taking of Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Hereford, when on his way to banishment after the quarrel with Norfolk.

The historian says, " The Duke of Hereford took his leave of the King at Eltham, who there released foure years of his punishment ; so he took his journie over into Calais, and from thence into France, where he remained."

This release of banishment at Eltham was prophetic, for the next occasion of Bolingbroke's coming to the palace was when he was King of England. It is not unnatural to find that subsequently he many times enjoyed the festive season of Christmas here. His predecessor on the throne, Richard II, had been fond of spending Yuletide at Eltham ; a feast he celebrated here with his first Queen, Anne of Bohemia, in the years 1384–5–6.

At about this time a State visit was paid by Leo, King of Armenia, who came uninvited to mediate between the Kings of England and France ; he was severely snubbed by the English monarch while at Eltham, but after four days this cunning Oriental returned to France, having extracted a grant from the English exchequer of £1000 a year for life.

In 1395 Froissart found his way to the English Court, his

purpose being to present to King Richard a volume of his writings. The poet, after reaching Eltham, relates: "The King arrived on a Tuesday; on the Wednesday the lords came from all parts. There were the Duke of Gloucester, the Earls of Derby, Arundel, Northumberland, Kent, Rutland, the Earl Marshal, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Bishops of London and Winchester, in short, all who had been summoned arrived at Eltham on the Thursday by eight o'clock in the morning.

"The Parliament was holden in the king's apartment, in the presence of the king, his uncles, and the council. The matter of deliberation was the solicitation of the chieftains in Aquitaine that they might remain attached to the crown of England. Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, opposed their petition, with a view to keep his brother, the Duke of Lancaster, abroad; and to show that he alone was the man who governed the King, and the greatest in the council. As soon as he had delivered his opinion, and saw that the prelates and lords were discussing it in small parties, he quitted the king's chamber, followed by the Earl of Derby, and entered the Hall at Eltham, where he ordered a table to be spread, and they both sat down to dinner, while others were debating the business.

"On the Sunday the whole council were gone to London, excepting the king and Sir Richard Sturry; these two, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Percy, mentioned me again to the king, who desired to see the book I had brought for him. I presented it to him in his chamber, for I had it with me, and laid it on his bed. He opened it and looked into it with much pleasure. He ought to have been pleased, for it was handsomely written and illuminated, and bound in crimson velvet, with ten silver-gilt studs, and roses of the same in the middle, with two large clasps of silver-gilt, richly worked with roses in the centre. The king asked me what the book treated of; I

replied, 'Of Love!' He was pleased with the answer, and dipped into several places, reading aloud, for he read and spoke French perfectly well, and then gave it to one of his knights, Sir Richard Credon, to carry it to his oratory, and made me acknowledgment for it."

This detailed description provides glimpses into the doings of the public council and the private affairs of the King, and dwelling on the fact that the sovereign was not averse to receive his guests in his chamber while still in bed.

In the following reign another poet came to Eltham. This was no foreigner, but the English Chaucer, who had been appointed Clerk of the Works for the royal palaces, and who, when on his journey from London, was robbed of £10—a large sum for a poet to lose in those days. It is interesting to note that at the time of the robbery Chaucer may have been on the very road traversed by the Canterbury Pilgrims. Tabard Street, down which both he and his pilgrims must have passed, is even to-day not without dangers of a similar nature; nor is the Old Kent Road altogether beyond suspicion yet.

In this reign another potentate from the Near East arrived in England and was feasted at Eltham, but with more genial fare than that meted out to the King of Armenia.

Manuel Palœologos, Emperor of Constantinople, by his very name seems to demand all things on a grand scale. The King of England gave entertainment to this emperor for a couple of months, during whose visit magnificent tournaments were held at Eltham. No less a person than the King's daughter, Princess Blanche, appeared as "Queen of Beauty" amidst the pick of England's fairest maidens when these marks of respect were proffered to His Majesty's honoured guest.

In 1402 Henry was married at Eltham, by proxy, to the Princess Joan, daughter of Charles II of Navarre, and widow of the Duke of Brittany.

In the absence of the bride one of her esquires, a certain

Antoine Reizi, acted as her representative. It was upon this man's finger that the bridegroom, Henry IV, placed the wedding ring, and with him exchanged the marriage vows. It appears an odd occurrence in these days of rapid transit that a lady, from no matter how great a distance, should find it expedient to forgo the pleasure of being elevated to the rank of queen in person at her marriage.

One of the few unhappy incidents that occurred at Eltham was in connection with Henry's final visit here. He had previously been attacked by a "fulsome, leprous disease," which disfigured his face to a terrible degree. The sickness came on soon after the execution of the Archbishop of York, and people believed it to be a judgment visited from heaven upon the King for his misdemeanour. So complete was his seclusion at Eltham that he scarcely saw any person but the Queen, and lay for hours together without any visible signs of life.

Henry V celebrated his first Christmas at Eltham in 1413, but before the festivities were fittingly concluded they were broken up on account of trouble with the Lollards. This King frequently resided at Eltham, and here, three years after his accession, he entertained Sigismund, King of the Romans, during the latter's visit in connection with a religious scheme for reuniting the Church after various squabbles had occurred between England and France. King Sigismund was subsequently made a Knight of the Garter by Henry, the ceremony taking place at Eltham. In the wardrobe accounts it is stated that this visit cost upwards of £200.

The young Prince Henry, afterwards King Henry VI, spent much of his time at Eltham both before and after his accession. It will be remembered that in Shakespeare's play Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, exclaims :

> "Each hath his place and function to attend,
> I am left out, for me no thing remains,
> But long I will not be a Jack out of office;
> The King from Eltham I intend to steal,
> And sit at chiefest stern of public weal."

In anticipation of the arrival of his bride-to-be, Margaret of Anjou, in 1445, the youthful Henry added to the palace a hall, scullery and suitable lodgings for the princess's retinue. This lady eventually stayed in the newly erected apartments at Eltham before her marriage.

It is generally conceded, owing to the appearance of Edward IV's badge upon portions of the great hall at Eltham, that this fine structure was built by him. It was probably only completed and decorated by him, the hall itself being the one designed for the reception of Princess Margaret in the previous reign. There is a well-known fact that monarchs, from the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs onwards, were not averse to inserting their own cartouches or arms to buildings erected by their predecessors.

Henry VI was taken prisoner at the Battle of Northampton in 1460, and while in the hands of the Yorkists paid his last visit to Eltham, his captors allowing him to hunt in the royal woods surrounding the palace: a sad termination to the rosy outlook of his childhood's days, when Eltham was his home.

The next King, Edward IV, so different in character from Henry VI, spent a great deal of time at Eltham. In 1469 a tournament was held at the palace, the King's Champion being Sir John Paston: an occasion no doubt when the courtyard, situated in the village and now so commonplace in appearance, was thronged with the pick of the nation's horsemen, archers and athletes; lutinists and singers jostled and mingled with the crowd of fair ladies, who, in their turn,

encouraged the exploits of the combatants by the music of their voices raised in praise of chivalry and deeds of daring.

Edward IV was a voluptuous Sovereign, fond of royal pomp. It is therefore probable that the accommodation of the palace, although enlarged in the previous reign, was insufficient for his habitual display of splendour.

No doubt he added to and embellished the palace and completed the roof of the hall. In the carvings of the south bay, which to-day faces the lawn, may be observed the Falcon and Fetterlock, one of his own royal badges. The King's mark is left also upon the spandrils of the principal doorway leading to the screens. The accommodation provided can be gauged from the fact that so great was the concourse of people assembled for the Christmas celebrations of the year 1482 that upwards of 2000 persons feasted daily at the King's board, an undertaking which would tax to the utmost the resources of any royal palace nowadays.

Of Edward IV's achievements in converting, even if not in the actual erection of castles and houses to his own extravagant use, the poet Skelton wrote :

> " I made Nottingham a Palace Royal,
> Windsor, Eltham, and many others mo ;
> Yet at last I went from them all,
> Et nunc in pulvere dormio."

It is known, from the following items in the wardrobe accounts, that Edward IV removed his library of books to Eltham, for we find that payments in connection therewith were as follows :

" To Robert Boillet, for black paper and nails for closing and fastening of divers coffyns of fir, wherein the King's books were conveied and carried from the King's Great Wardrobe in London unto Eltham . 8d.

"To Richard Carter, for carriage of divers appertaining unto the office of Beds from London unto Eltham . . . . . 15d."

Also mention is made of the very modern item of a tip:

"To the King's carman, for a reward awaiting upon certain of the King's book put into the King's car . . . . . 8d."

Of Edward's many daughters, the Lady Bridget—who died and is buried at Dartford—was baptized with great splendour and regal formality at Eltham, as we learn from the contemporary account of the procession formed for the ceremony:

"Furste C (100 Torches borne by Knightes followed by Esquires and other honneste Parsonnes.
The Lorde Matraners, Beringe the Bason,
Having A Towell about his necke.
Therle of Northumberlande Beringe A Taper not light.
Therle of Lincoln, the Salte.
The Canapee borne by iiij Knightes and A Baron.
My Lady Matraners did bere A Ryche Crysom Pinned over her lefte breste.
The Countesse of Rychmond did bere the Princesse."

Then followed a train of nobles and knights bearing "greate gyftes."

After the baptismal rites the procession returned from the chapel to the Queen's chambers, presumably for cutting the christening cake.

The sponsors in those days were known as "the Gossyppes."

Another of Edward IV's daughters, sixth in order of birth, was christened at Eltham. In her will this lady described herself as being

"Daughter, sister, and aunte of Kings,"

but could not claim to be the wife or mother of a monarch.

Although the sumptuous and genial family life of the royal princes of the Middle Ages is revealed in the events of Eltham Palace, it is refreshing to learn that the heartrending acts coupled with the name of Richard III appear in no way to be connected with this place of pleasant memories.

# CHAPTER VII

## ELTHAM UNDER THE TUDORS AND AFTER

" Methinks I hear the sound of time long past
Still murm'ring o'er us in the lofty void
Of those dark arches, like the ling'ring voices
Of those who long within their graves have slept."
" Orra : A Tragedy."

DURING the stormy latter days of the Wars of the Roses Eltham frequently remained untenanted. The reinstating and enlargement of the palace undertaken by the young King Henry VI in anticipation of the arrival of his bride, the Princess Margaret of Anjou, was only the beginning of a transformation. On this occasion a new hall and suitable lodgings were planned and erected; but these additions did not provide sufficient accommodation for the grand ideas of his successors. Edward IV continued building and decorating on a lavish scale. Henry VII brought the palace up to the requirements of a royal house of his day, when men were no longer content to be herded together both at night and by day in one great apartment.

During former reigns the chief provision, both for eating and sleeping, was to be found in the great hall, where the tables, or boards on trestles, were removed after supper in order that the rush-covered floor might be made ready for the company's repose until the following dawn.

It was still the custom for the Sovereign to dine in public, and after Henry Tudor became King and took up his residence at Eltham Palace it is recorded that, when the Court was assembled, Henry and his Queen dined in the great hall, and that the officers kept their tables there also. The members

of the Royal Family would be seated at the upper end on the dais, with their backs close to the wall for safety's sake, while officers of State and lower officials would range themselves, in order of rank, along the sides of the hall in a single row, also with their backs against the wall. This arrangement enabled the royal party to face the general company; also it reserved the centre of the hall for the ceremonies accompanying the service of the innumerable pretty dishes to be set before the King.

From this time onwards it was considered necessary to provide private suites of chambers for the convenience of distinguished guests and officers of State.

Lombarde, writing shortly after this time, says: "It is not yet out of memorie that the King set up the fair front over the moat at Eltham." The lower courses of the walls of this range are shown in one of the illustrations of the palace.

The wardrobe accounts, as usual, provide a clue to the nature of the work undertaken for the requirements of the Court. One such reads:

"Expended at Eltham, for shifting the Oratory of the King, repairs for the bultyng house, Storehouse, Bakery, Lodges (lodgings), Lower Court, near the east part of the Bridge, pons hauriabilis, and repairing a Room within the Manor from March to November 15 and 16 Henry VII 1500, 33 weeks and a day.

"For 70 feet of glass, called Normandy glass, and 10 feet of Rhenish glass for the Royal lodging.

"A round disc of glass painted with a royal red rose, and a similar disc painted with a portcullis for the same lodging." Thus the badges of the King and that of John of Gaunt were depicted upon the windows at Eltham.

Badges were constantly portrayed in all royal dwellings, not only upon the walls, windows and vanes of the palaces of the King, but also as signs in front of the hostels at the disposal of travellers who were guests for the time being. The custom

extended throughout the land as witnessed to-day in every town in England, where licensed houses exhibit the badge of the King reigning at the time of their erection. These signs are one of the features of the roadside inn as well as that of the great coaching hostelries, many of which were originally royal manor-houses.

It is worthy of note that inns were provided by the Sovereign at the royal manors, where food and lodging could be obtained for those persons not deemed worthy of an invitation to stay in the palace itself. In Eltham village will be found the "Crown," the "King's Inn," the "White Hart"; one of these stands within the Court Yard, at the entrance to the royal residence. Richard II, who adopted the White Hart as his badge, did so in honour of his mother, Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, and it was the officers of this monarch who first stamped the public-house licences with a badge.

In Caxton's Chronicles it is stated that "All the Kynges house were of one suite; theyr cotys, theyr armys, theyr sheldes and theyr trappours were browded all with Whyte Herty, with crownes of golde about theyr neckes, and cheynes of golde hanging thereon, whiche herty was the Kynges leverye that he gaf to Lordys, Ladyes, Knyghtes and Squires."

After Richard was deposed the Swan of Henry IV and the Antelope and Red Lion of the House of Lancaster became popular. With Edward IV came the White Lion; with Richard III the White Boar; with the House of Tudor appeared the Rose and Crown, the Portcullis and the Welsh Red Dragon; finally the Unicorn was sported by the Stuarts. All these royal badges are familiar objects on the inn sign-boards displayed to-day.

The expenditure on feasts was on a scale difficult, in these economical days, to believe, in spite of the fact that the dimensions of the mediæval kitchens were only second in size and importance to the banqueting rooms themselves.

The following items—taken at random from an ancient record—give some idea of the extent to which feasting had expanded in the latter half of the fifteenth century :

| | |
|---|---|
| Muttons | 1000 |
| Veals | 304 |
| Porks | 400 |
| Swans | 2000 |
| Geese | 1000 |
| Capons | 2000 |
| Pigs | 400 |
| Wild Bulls | 6 |
| Plovers | 1200 |
| Quails | 2400 |
| Peacocks | 4000 |
| Cranes | 204 |
| Kids | 2000 |
| Bitterns | 400 |
| Heronshaws | 200 |
| Curlews | 1000 |
| Egreets, more than | 500 |
| Stags and Bucks | 4000 |
| Pastries of venison, cold | 1000 |
| " " hot | 1500 |
| Potted dishes of Jellies | 4000 |
| Hot custards | 2000 |
| Porpoises and Seals | 12 |

This gigantic entertainment finished up with " Spices, sugared delicacies and wafers, plenty." A contemporary writer says " the fare of a gentleman is four, five, or six dishes when they have small resort." A Spaniard visiting England in this century observed, " These English have houses made of sticks and dirt, but they fare, commonly, as well as a King."

Included in Henry VII's privy purse expenses are the following, which give an insight into the royal pleasures and pastimes at this period :

| | |
|---|---|
| " For going to the King's palace with wild cats and poppinjays of the new found island, with other wild stuff . . . . . | 13/4 |
| To one that brought a leopard to the King's Grace . | £13.6.8 |
| To men of Bristol that found the isle . . . | 5.0.0 |
| To him that found the new isle . . . . | 10.0.0 |
| To one that brought the King a lion . . . | 2.13.4 |
| For the Queen's Grace. | |
| To John Goose, my Lord of York's fool, for bringing a carp . . . . . | 1.0 |
| To a minstrel that played upon the droon . . | 3.4 |
| To a servant for bringing a present of sele . . | 10.0 |
| To a servant of the Prothonotary of Spain for oranges . . . . . | 1.0 |
| To a servant of the Abbess of Syon, for a present of rabbits . . . . . | 2.0 |
| To a page of the Queen's, for shoes for the Queen's fool . . . . . | 6 |
| For a hamper, to carry in pippins. . . . | 6 |
| To the Keeper of the Queen's goshawks and spaniels | 1.6.8 " |

It is said that this lady " won the devotion of every heart."

Although elaborate details of decoration are given, there is little reliable information regarding the furnishing of the Sovereign's private apartments prior to the end of the fifteenth century.

It was at this period that the great and costly bed supplanted the hard oak chest as a place for the ordinary individual to sleep upon. In royal houses in earlier days a kind of tent was erected, and this developed into the four-poster with wooden tester, and occasionally side pieces, also of wood.

The earliest four-posters date from the beginning of the sixteenth century in England, when elaborate ceremonies were performed during the daily bed-making.

Henry VII ordered thus for the comfort of his sleeping apartment :

" For the making of the Kings bed, first a Yeoman or

VIEW FROM THE MOAT, ELTHAM.

Groom of the wardrobe must bring in the stuff and the curtains of the bed must be drawn together, then two Esquires of the Body must stand at the Bed-head and two Yeoman of the Guard at the Beds-feet. The feather bed must be well beaten to make it even and smooth. It is the duty of the Esquires of the Body to put the covers on the bed, without any wrinkles, and also to tuck these under the feather-bed both at the sides and the feet." After sheets and pillows had been correctly placed and all "well accomplished" the bed was sprinkled with Holy Water—the Yeomen of the Guard were to "go without and to partake them of bread and ale and wine and so to drink together."

For the Queen's bed, "which is to be made by Ladies as the King's by gentlemen. Twoe paire of sheets of reines, either of them fower breathes and five yards longe, twoe long pillows and twoe square of fustion stuffed with fine downe, and for belowe twoe paire of panes and a pane of scarlett furred with ermine and bordered with a sheet or cloth of gold, with a head-sheet of like cloth." By the bed lay "a round mantle of crimson velvet fringed with ermine for the Queen to wear about her in her pallet, and other things needfull."

The great scholar, Erasmus, visited Eltham in 1500, walking over from Greenwich Palace to see the King's house and pay his respects to the royal children. He gives a charming picture of his reception, as follows:

"When we came to the great hall, there were assembled together, not only those of the Royal household, but the train of Lord Mountjoy. In the midst stood Henry, then only nine years old, but of right royal bearing, foreshowing a nobility of mind, in addition to a person of singular beauty. On his right hand was the Lady Margaret; afterwards married to James, king of the Scots; the Lady Mary, four years old, was playing at his left; and near at hand was the little Edmund, in the nurses arms." Erasmus adds that "during dinner, the

stripling (Henry) sent me a short epistle, as a kind of challenge, to write something for him."

By the time the " stripling " Henry became King, Greenwich Palace, with its greater facilities for display both on land and water, was preferred to the more restricted royal enclosures at Eltham, but the three outlying parks of the latter continued to be a favourite hunting ground until the days of the Stuarts. However, Henry VIII spent a good deal of time here in the earlier years of his reign, when Katharine of Aragon was Queen. His bride, Anne Boleyn, was taken to Greenwich for entertainment.

About this time the name of a famous servant of the Crown appears in connection with Eltham. On Christmas Eve, 1515, when the Court was there, Wolsey took the oath of Lord Chancellor, and was elevated to that office in succession to Archbishop Warham, who delivered up the Great Seal only two days before. The quaint old house, now partially obscured by match-boarding, situated on the right of the road before the moat bridge, is still known by the name of the Chancellor's Lodgings, and is so marked on a map of the courtyard, dated 1590, preserved at the Record Office.

During this Christmas feast some choir-boys performed a comedy of " Troilus and Pandarus " in the great hall, and this entertainment must have given a foretaste of the plays of the latter half of the century. The hall screens that are standing to-day, then doubtless hung with tapestry, formed the background, while the two openings were the sole entrances and exits for the performers. The comedy at an end, the fun became more furious. Holinshed describes the scene which finished up the festivities thus :

" On the Twelfe Night, in the hall, was made a goodly castle, wonderously set out, and in it certaine ladies and knights, and when the Kinge and Queene were set, in came other knights and assailed the castle, when many a good stripe

was given, and at last the assailants were beaten away, and then issued knights and ladies out of the earth, which ladies were strangelie disguised, for all their apparel was in braids of gold, fret with moving spangles of silver-gilt set on crimson satin, loose, and not fastened ; the men's apparel of the same suite made like julis of Hungary, and the ladies' heads and bodies were after the fashion of Amsterdam ; and when the dancing was done the banket was served in of two hundred dishes."

In this gay scene, enacted under the fine oak roof of the hall, it is interesting to note that the knights were dressed as Jews of Hungary. A similar costume is worn to-day by the Hungarian Jews in the city of Jerusalem, in honour of the noble rank granted to them in the fourteenth century.

No wonder that during these high jinks the kitchen utensils required replenishing ; we read in the domestic accounts that " new furnishing of workhouses for ye Mrs. Cooke of the hall place to caste ther jelly's and fretts as gengbread and leshe " were provided in anticipation for the making of extra delicacies.

The " Statutes of Eltham," drawn up in 1525 by Wolsey, give some curious orders for the regulation of the establishment at the palace.

The experienced Chancellor commands that " His Highnesses attendants are not to steal any locks or keys, tables, forms, cupboards, or other furniture out of the noblemen's or gentlemen's houses, when he goes to visit. No herald, minstrel, falconer or other, shall bring to the Court any boy or rascal."

These items throw light on the state of domestic affairs in general, but where the royal food was prepared things must have been chaotic ! An order goes that " Master Cookes shall employ such scullions as shall not go about naked, nor lie all night upon the ground upon the kitchen floor."

Could anything be more graphic concerning hygiene in the preparation of dishes fit to be set before the King ?

Strangely enough, the royal brewer was not allowed to put any " hops or brimstone into the ale."

In contrast with these domestics' haphazard ways, the personal servants of Henry appear to have been well versed in their duties ; the barber arranged " His Majesty's clothes, bason, knives, combes, scissors, and such other stuffe as his room doth appertayne, for trymminge and dressinge of the Kinges heade and bearde."

However, the royal hairdresser is warned against placing himself near " vyle persons " at any time.

The Plague raged so fiercely in London in the autumn of 1526 that the Court was removed to Eltham and remained there over Christmas, but there were no festivities, the King being surrounded only " with a small retinue, for no manne might come thether, but suche as wer appoynted by name ; this Christmas in the kinges house was called the ' Still Christmas.' "

Hall, the historian, observes in his Chronicle that Cardinal Wolsey kept his feast with open household at Richmond " to lords, ladies and all that would come, with plays and disguisings in most royal manner."

The following January Wolsey came to Eltham, staying a fortnight ; he introduced many ordinances concerning the King's house, which were embodied in the Statutes of Eltham. These Statutes are the basis of the regulations for the Royal Household now in use.

In this reign " The divine Motion of Eltham "—a puppet-show or marionettes' exhibition, and an extremely popular entertainment—was performed, and later referred to by Ben Jonson :

> " See you yon Motion ? Not the old fa-ding,
> Nor Captain Pod, nor yet the Eltham thing."

Londoners flocked to Eltham to witness play-acting before any theatres were built in Southwark.

Young Queen Anne came to the palace in 1554 with Henry VIII to see their daughter, Elizabeth. Even at the age of one year the infant was described as being "as goodly a child as hath ever been seen." No further visits during the domestic troubles of this reign are recorded, but in 1556 Queen Mary was at Eltham, attended by Cardinal Pole and Lord Montagu.

The charm of Eltham seems to have departed while Mary was on the throne. Elizabeth, as Queen, returned but once to the place of her extreme youth. When she did so an idea arose that the stagnant waters of the moat rendered the palace unhealthy, so the Court remained but for a few days, and the royal manor became untenanted until Sir Christopher Hatton was appointed keeper. Henceforth the three parks appear to have been the only attraction left of the once glorious abode.

"In 1606 King James I, his brother-in-law King Christian of Denmark, and the young Henry, Prince of Wales, accompanied by many honourable persons, went to Eltham, a house of His Majesty's; some two miles distant from the Court, and killed three buck, with great pleasure, on horseback," says the Chronicle of that time.

A ballad composed in honour of the King's hunting here runs as follows:

"To-morrow at the break of day,
Thou'lt mount thy fleetest nag,
What er' betide, to Eltham ride,
To hunt the lordly stag.
To hunt the lordly buck, O King,
Then t'will be meet, thy lordly feet
To bathe there in his gore."

This rambling song ends thus :

" But be it this, or be it that,
Or Eltham's healthy clime,
Without a doubt the bout of gout,
Did quit him for the time.
So let us sing long live the king,
Right merry may he be.
When next in luck, he kills a buck
May I be there to see."

While James was King the palace must have been sadly neglected, for a contemporary account describes it as " The Scite of the manor of Eltham with a moate aboute the same Courte, Garden, Orchard, and building within the great gate there, four acres, three roods, thirteen perches."

In " Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic," it is stated that Charles I came here in November, 1629. It was the visit of a single day only, and the last recorded presence of the Sovereign within the fast crumbling walls of the palace.

From a survey taken after the death of Charles I, the buildings consisted of " A fair Chapel, a great hall, and thirty-six rooms and offices below stairs, two large cellars ; Above stairs in lodgings, called the king's side, 17 lodging rooms ; on the queen's side, twelve chambers, and on the private side nine. 35 bays of buildings round the Court Yard, which contained one acre of ground, the said bays containing about 78 rooms, used as offices. The whole out of repair and the materials valued at £2753, exclusive of the charge of taking it down." Truly a melancholy prospect for the future of this historic palace.

All was sold, and the deer in the great park of 596 acres were destroyed by the soldiery and others during the time of the Commonwealth, when most of the trees in all three parks were cut down.

In 1656 Evelyn writes in his Diary : " Went to see His

Majesty's house at Eltham; both the palace and chapel in miserable ruins, the noble wood and park destroyed by Rich, the Rebel."

After the Restoration the manor of Eltham was bestowed by Charles II on Sir John Shaw, in recognition of his friendship to him when in exile at Brussels and Antwerp; and, with the exception of certain portions still vested in the Crown, "this one-time royal residence continues to be," says Edward Walford in "Old and New London," "the possession of Sir John's descendants."

The palace and one of the parks are included in the Crown property to-day, and it is intended in the near future that the buildings within the moat shall be open for the enjoyment of the people for all time. One of the parks, with its own beautiful lodge, has already been converted into a golf club. There must be few such clubs, having the privilege of so charming and interesting a club-house with tapestried or panelled walls and fine carved woodwork throughout.

Of the many royal abodes within easy reach of London none have greater charm than that of Eltham. The approach, after leaving the sadly transformed courtyard, is under tall lime trees, an arched gate of the tilting ground to the left and a quaint range of many-windowed court-houses on the right. At the end of this row nestles the Chancellor's Lodging.

Not until the narrow bridge is reached does the full beauty of the scene reveal itself. One is then immediately aware of being at the entrance to a place of great importance, for beyond the silent moat there appear the stone traceried double-lighted windows of a building which might at first sight be mistaken for a church, but in reality is the historic hall where councils assembled for the making of English history during the Middle Ages.

On the further side of the moat may yet be traced the remains of the gate-house leading into the first Great Court.

Directly facing the bridge is the chief entrance arch, under which so many famous men have passed. This doorway led into the "screens," which formed a passage separating the domestic quarters (still partially visible to the left) from the place of banqueting, the royal chambers, and the chapel, beyond.

Eltham Palace, like many other houses of the Middle Ages, was square in plan, the disposition of its various parts being not unlike that of Haddon Hall; in both places the great hall and buttery intersect the square, thus dividing it into two parts, one forming the entrance court and the other containing various doors leading to suites of apartments and other necessary adjuncts to a great dwelling house.

Of the exterior ranges of these courts not a room remains, save the foundations and lower parts of the walls of them rising above the moat. In these the bases of great fire-places and projecting windows of curious design may be traced, and behind the Tudor brickwork are underground passages leading from the inner court to the moat itself, doubtless planned as a possible means of escape when all other exits were barred. Thse sally-ports are very dark and narrow and by no means straight. Little hiding-holes seem to be contrived in unexpected places along their courses. Subterranean passages have been traced for some distance leading from the palace in a south-easterly direction. It appears from a pamphlet that a trap-door under the ground floor of one of the apartments led into a room below, 10 feet by 5, from which issued a narrow tunnel, with decoys, stairs and shafts, some vertical and others on a slant; they were constructed for admitting air, and for hurling down missiles and pitch-balls upon the heads of those below. These passages were once explored to a distance of nearly 500 feet, 200 of which lay under the moat. In a field near Mottingham the arched roof had been broken into, but the passage was traced still further, proceeding in the same direction. Immediately beneath the moat two iron gates were found, while large

THE MOAT BRIDGE, ELTHAM.

stalactites hung from the roof, indicating the lapse of time since these bolt holes had been previously traversed.

In 1828 a description of the chief apartment, i.e., the banqueting hall as it then appeared, is given as follows : " With a suite of rooms at either extremity, the hall rose in the centre of the surrounding buildings, as superior in the grandeur of its architecture as in the magnificence of its proportions and the amplitude of its dimensions. This fair edifice has survived the shocks which, at different periods, laid the palace low. Desolation has reached its very walls, and the hand of wanton mischief has dared to injure where it could not destroy ; but still the Hall of Eltham has not, with the exception of the louvre, been entirely deprived of its smallest constituent feature."

Its north and south sides were open to quadrangles ; their architecture corresponded precisely, excepting that the south parapet was plain, while the north side was embattled, and the cornice enriched, with sculptured corbels. Other halls may surpass it in extent, but this one is perfect in every useful and elegant feature appertaining to a banqueting-room.

In this majestic structure frequent use of sculpture is avoided ; the proportions and harmony of its design are evidences of the care and skill of its builder. It was well lighted, and perhaps required stained glass to subdue the glare of its many windows arranged on either side. Every window is divided by a mullion without transoms, and every space by an exterior buttress which terminates below the cornice ; the buttresses are slender and elegant. The oriel windows are at the dais end of the hall, the length of which is over 100 feet. The bays are oblong square on plan, and their proportions nearly that of a double cube ; they have graceful stone-tracery ceilings. The dais is no longer visible, but its position can be ascertained by the sockets in the walls. The magnificent, open, oak-timbered roof stretches from end to end of the hall as originally constructed, the louvre alone having been removed.

At the eastern end of the great hall were three arched doorways communicating (again like Haddon Hall) with the buttery and kitchen. These entrances are in the "screens" opposite the two openings through a wooden partition in the hall itself. Above the screens is the minstrels' gallery. Many of the domestic offices and rooms above can be traced, now incorporated in the modern dwelling-house. Bold corbelled attics and ancient gables above the second floor, together with rows of Tudor chimneys, are visible from beyond the moat. Curious drains, probably from the kitchen quarters, descend into the water below. Octagonal turrets mark the corners washed by the moat near this range of buildings. Further on a fine view of the principal bridge may be obtained. Only one arm of the original four-sided rectangular moat contains water; the remaining portions have been drained and turned into sunk gardens. On the south side are the remains of the second moat bridge.

At the further end of the screens, now blocked up, is a plain stone archway leading into the inner quadrangle, around which were suites of apartments. All these have disappeared, and on the site is a lawn with one large tree in the centre, partially obscuring the south face of the hall. From this vantage ground one gathers some idea of the position, extent and dimensions of those buildings which once lined the moat on all sides.

It is lamentable to think how little remains above ground of the palace, but there is sufficient still to form a notable addition to the list of royal houses now open to the inspection and enjoyment of the public. When certain repairs and excavations have been accomplished, and a few unsightly buildings removed, Eltham will take its place as one of the most picturesque retreats within easy reach of London. There is no approach to a palace comparable to that of Eltham, nor any hall standing throughout England, save Westminster Hall, to vie with the great hall of Eltham Palace.

# CHAPTER VIII

## GREENWICH PALACE

"There are two things scarce matched in the universe, the sun in heaven, and the Thames on earth. The one will light us to Greenwich, and the other would take us there a little faster, if it were ebb tide."

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

THE situation of Greenwich is unique. Placed in the centre of a horseshoe bend in the River Thames, its palace stands by the water's edge, commanding an extensive view both up and down stream.

Like the entrance lodge to a seat of the mighty, this majestic building guards the approach to the Metropolis on the Highway of Nations.

It is no wonder that a site in so favourable and commanding a position should have been chosen for the erection of a palace for the rulers of this island kingdom to reside in. There the King could defend the capital from invasion by an enemy's ships in time of war; there, too, in peaceful days, he would offer a friendly welcome to the foreign princes who came as invited guests to the English Court.

Twice in every twenty-four hours the ocean waters surge up from the North Sea and lap the walls of the royal palace, providing thereby a rapid means of transport by boat or barge not only between Greenwich and the town residences at the Tower, Whitehall and Westminster, but also between all these places and the country palaces of Kew, Richmond, Hampton Court, Oatlands and Windsor. When England possessed but few good roads for conveying building materials from place to place, rivers, when available, formed the principal highways for

heavy traffic. For this reason, coupled with the fact that it was safer for persons to travel by water than by land, many of the great houses were erected near to the water's edge.

The vicinity of Greenwich, from earliest times until the present day, has been intimately connected with British naval construction and the Navy's personnel.

The history of Greenwich as a royal possession goes back to a period prior to the Conquest. Earl Harold held manors here, and these were passed on to the Conqueror ; the particular manor to which the palace belongs has remained the property of the kings of England, without interruption, for upwards of a thousand years.

As far back as the reign of King Edward I there was a royal residence at Greenwich ; in 1408 Henry IV dated his will from " our manor of Greenwich," although at that period Eltham Palace, a few miles distant, was the more important royal residence by reason of its elevated position rendering it less liable to an enemy's sudden attack. Not until the House of Tudor was well established upon the throne did Greenwich prove its full worth as a centre for that great display of chivalry so dear to the heart of Henry VIII, who himself took an active part in deeds of daring during the tournaments held here.

In the reign of Henry V, when the King was engaged with his wars in France, the manor of Greenwich was granted for life to his kinsman, Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, who passed it on to his son Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, known as " The Good Duke," who was appointed Regent during the minority of Henry VI. History remembers him as the " Great Duke Humphrey," for he was one of the noblest characters of the Middle Ages and called the " Father of his Country."

Duke Humphrey and his wife Eleanor obtained royal leave to " embattle the manor of Greenwich, build with stone, enclose and make a ditch, and erect a Tower within ; and also a certain Tower in the Park to build and edify." The site of this upper

tower is identical with Greenwich Observatory. The manor-house stood where the palace was subsequently built and remains, after successive rebuilding, as Greenwich Hospital to-day.

Duke Humphrey fell in the plenitude of his power by the hand of an assassin, instigated, it is supposed, by the young King Henry's wife, Margaret of Anjou. At his death the manor reverted to the Crown. Enlarged and embellished, it then became the palace of the King, henceforth called "L'Pleazaunce."

Richard, Duke of York, the father of Edward IV, was married to Anne Mowbray with much pomp at Greenwich, the occasion being celebrated by a royal joust, the first notable display at Greenwich in a long and brilliant series of pageants.

Edward IV, after the Wars of the Roses, spent large sums of money in the enlargement and beautification of the palace. He then granted it, with the park, to his wife, Elizabeth Woodville.

In 1482 the King's fifth daughter, Mary, who was betrothed to the King of Denmark, died at Greenwich.

The first Tudor monarch, having, not unnaturally, dismissed Elizabeth Woodville, widow of Edward IV, and sent her to Bermondsey Nunnery, took possession of "Placentia," as the palace was sometimes called, and brought it up to date by his favourite method, that of substituting red brick for stone on the river frontage, a plan also carried out at Eltham and other residences at this period. Henry VII added to the buildings and completed the tower in the park, left unfinished by his predecessors.

Greenwich became a favourite residence, and from this palace the Queen was conveyed by water to join her husband for the coronation at Westminster Abbey. A great water procession followed, including a number of gilded barges of the City Companies, with one barge "garnished and apparelled

passing all others, wherein was ordeyned a great redde Dragon (the Welsh badge of the Tudors) spouting flames of fyer. These & many gentlemanlie pagiaunts well & curiously devised."

In June, 1491, there was born at Greenwich that right royal prince afterwards King Henry VIII. He was baptized in the local parish church, and with the other royal children was brought up at the neighbouring and more healthily situated palace of Eltham. But Prince Henry, when King, vastly preferred the place of his birth, on which he lavished much money in order to make it worthy of his ambitious display of chivalry before foreigners, and other pageantry so dear to his heart.

Leland, who was an eye-witness of a great entertainment, thus describes it in his itinerary :

"Lo ! with what lustre shines this wished for place ;
Which, star like, might the heavenly mansions grace.
What painted roofs ! what windows charm the eye !
What turrets, rivals of the starry sky !
What constant Springs ! what verdant meads besides !
Where Flora's self in majesty resides,
And beauteous all around her does dispence,
With bounteous hands, her flowery influence,
Happy the man whose lucky wish could frame,
To suit this place so elegant a name,
Expressing all its beauties in the same."

*L'Pleazaunce.*

Henry VIII from the outset of his reign held his Court at this magnificent palace, year after year, with increasing splendour, amid scenes of festivity never before imagined possible in England. High revelry, jousts and water pageants followed in quick succession.

Henry's marriage with his brother's widow, Katharine of Aragon, was celebrated at Greenwich in the summer of 1509, but in a modest way, in view of the opposition from Rome.

Two years later, on May Day, " the King lying at Greenwich, rode to the wodde to fetch May, and after, on the same day, and the two days ensuing, the King, Sir Edward Howard, Charles Brandon, and Sir Edward Nevill, as challengers, held joustes against all comers. On the other part, the Marquis Dorset, the Earls of Essex and Devonshire, with others, as defendauntes, ranne againste them, so that many a sore stripe was given, and many a staffe broken."

The festival of Christmas was enjoyed at Greenwich " with great and plentiful cheer in a most princely manner " the same year, " where was such viandes served to all-comers of any honest behaviours, as hath been few times seen, and against New-Yere's night was made, in the hall, a castle, gates, towers, & dungeon, garnished with artillerie & weapons, after the most warlike fashion, and on the front of the castle was written ' Le Fortresse Dangerus,' and within the castle were six ladies clothed in russet satin, laide all over with leves of golde ; after the Quene had beheld it, in came the Kyng with five others, apparelled in coates, the one halfe of russet satyn spangled with spangels of golde, the other halfe riche cloth of golde, on their heddes caps embroidered with works of fine golde bullion. These six assaulted the castle, the ladies seying them so lustie & corageous, were content to solace them, & to yeld the castle, and so they came downe and daunced a long space. The ladies led the knightes into the castle and then the castle sodenly vanished. On the daie of Epiphanie at night, the Kyng with XI other were disguised after the manner of Italie, called a maske, a thing not seen afore in England ; they were appareled in garmentes long and brode, wrought all with golde, with visers & cappes of golde, and after the banket done, these maskes came in with six gentlemen, disguised in silke, bearing staffe torches, and desired the ladies to daunce, some with content, and some that knewe the fashion of it refused, because it was not a thing commonly seen. After they daunced and commoned

together, and as the fashion of the maske is, they took their leave and departed and so did the Quene and all her ladies."

So reads the old Chronicle. Less than ten years afterwards, it was at a mask at Greenwich that Anne Boleyn made her appearance at Court, winning at first sight the heart of the King.

In 1515 a daughter to Katharine of Aragon was born at Greenwich, one who afterwards became Queen. When but five years of age Princess Mary was led by her mother to meet the Emperor Charles V at the entrance of the palace. Charles knelt and craved his aunt's blessing, which she bestowed "right willingly" and, after kissing him, presented her little daughter, whom the Emperor took up in his arms, seating her upon his shoulder.

During this visit of the Emperor Charles, an order went forth that "all such ships as there shall be in the Thames to be aid betwixt Greenwich and Gravesend in a convenient distance, betwixt every ship, well garnished with streamers and banners, guns and ordinance, to shoot as the Emperor shall pass by."

The King's sister, Mary, Queen Dowager of France, was married at Greenwich in 1515 to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

The long tragedy of Queen Katharine's divorce was followed by the wedding of her rival, Anne Boleyn, promptly brought back to the place of her first meeting with Henry, who had finally triumphed over every opposition. There also, in Greenwich Palace, was born to them the "faire yoong ladie" Elizabeth, a sad disappointment to her expectant father.

A contemporary official account of the royal birth is interesting as showing the credulity of the seemingly enlightened monarch. It runs as follows:

"Upon the 7th day of September, 1533, being Sunday, betwixt the hours of three and foure in the Afternoon, Queen Anne (lying upon a magnificent state bed that had been part

of the ransom price of a French prince) was delyver'd of a fayre daughter at Greenwich, who, to the great unspeakable joy of princes and people was christened on the third day following, being Wednesday, the Mayor of London and his brethren to more than forty of the greatest citizens being commanded to attend upon the solemnities."

Writing after the event the Spanish ambassador observed that the birth of a daughter was " of great disappointment to the King, and a shame and confusion to the astrologers, wizards and witches, all of whom had foretold the arrival of a lusty son."

At her baptism the princess, wrapped in a mantle of purple velvet, was borne by the Duchess of Norfolk, while the Countess of Kent carried the train of the christening robe. A canopy of crimson satin, fringed with gold, was supported over the babe by four earls. Around the font " hovered divers gentlemen with aprons and towels about their necks to see that no filth should come near."

The baptismal ceremony ended, the infant princess was confirmed before the high altar. A procession was reformed, departing from the chapel while the Garter Chief King-of-Arms proclaimed these words at the portal : " May God of His infinite goodness send prosperous life and long to the high and mighty Princess of England, Elizabeth, born of the famous and victorious prince Henry VIII and of his most noble and virtuous Ladie Queen Anne, her mother." When visiting this historic spot, Dr. Johnson wrote :

> " On Thames's banks, in silent thought we stood
> Where Greenwich smiles upon the silver flood ;
> Struck with the seat that gave Eliza birth,
> We kneel, and kiss the consecrated earth."

In less than three years from the birth of her only child at Greenwich amid great rejoicing, Queen Anne, at the termina-

tion of a tournament, left the palace in her state barge with the intention of disembarking at Whitehall. On the journey thither, this joyous, young, and beautiful lady passed by the Tower of London. Perhaps her thoughts were at the moment centred upon the tragic events which had before then taken place behind those grim stone walls. Had it not been for the murders enacted there, her royal husband would never have been King, nor she his Queen. Before such-like terrible thoughts had time to pass from her mind, the fatal order for her own arrest was carried out with brutal suddenness. In the name of the King the royal barge was hurriedly boarded from another barge and the astonished Queen unceremoniously rushed through the Traitor's Gate into the darkness beyond, where she was immediately locked up and guarded as a prisoner, there to await her accusation of infidelity to her sovereign lord and master. Within three weeks the axe had severed the lovely head from the youthful body of Anne Boleyn, so swift were the deeds of violence enacted by a jealous husband.

It is said that the cause of Henry's jealousy was as follows: The May Day sports were at their height, when the King, without uttering a word to the Queen or anybody else, suddenly took his departure, apparently in an ill-humour, and proceeded to London accompanied by six domestics. All the tilters were surprised and chagrined; the reason of the King's action being that, during the festivities, he had seen the Queen drop her handkerchief as a signal to her supposed young lover, Weston, who afterwards picked it up and carried it away.

Before the year was out Henry returned with Jane Seymour, "now lately become Queen." The happy pair "rode across the Thames to Greenwich Palace on horseback with the Court, for the river was frozen over from bank to bank."

Within another three short years Henry married his fourth wife, who was conveyed from Dartford for the wedding at Greenwich, and with her the King set out in state for West-

GREENWICH PALACE.

minster, attended by the Lord Mayor and City Companies, and followed by "the Commoners of London in their best apparel in their barges." That same night the King "in a fearful temper" told the terrified Cromwell, who had arranged the marriage, that he would not be "husband to that Dutch cow."

With his usual despatch, Henry, within six months had rid himself of his misguided Minister and his ugly wife, Anne of Cleves, who gladly accepted the generous terms offered her and retired into private life with a good jointure. Nor did this tactful lady lose the good graces of her "greatly offended" husband in after life; they subsequently met on friendly terms at Richmond and elsewhere.

The famous embassy from Francis I of France was received by the English King at Greenwich, where the league between the two countries was ratified. These foreign noblemen were "entertained after a more sumptuous manner than had ever been seen before."

The official statement of accounts made out by the "Master of the Revels" is still preserved. The stage effects were provided on a magnificent scale at a cost of £8000, and all other expenses were in keeping. It is curious to note that for "making scenery" the great Holbein was given only £4 10*s*. This artist was also responsible for "six antique busts" of Romans and the design for a gilded triumphal arch. Italian artists were specially imported for decorating the canvas walls and roofs of the banqueting tents; it is consoling to read that "Mr. Brown" was a member of the army of men employed in producing the splendours for this famous display of ostentation made to impress the representatives of the King of France. Stow wrote that he "lacked head of fine wit, and also cunning in his bowels" to describe it with sufficient eloquence.

In Hall's Chronicles is a description of a Christmas party at Greenwich written thus:

" The king kept a solemne Christemas at Grenewicke to chere his nobles, & on the twelfe daie at night, came into the hall a mount, called the riche mount. It was sett full of riche flowers of silke, & especially full of brome slippes full of coddes ; the braunches wer grene sattin, & the flowers flat gold of damaske, which signified Plantagenet. On the top stode a goodly bekon, gevyng light ; rounde aboute the bekon sat the Kyng & five other, all in coates & cappes of right crimosin velvet, set full of spangelles of gold. And four woodhouses (storks) drewe the mount till it came before the Quene, and then the Kyng & his compaignie descended and daunced ; then sodainly the mount opened, and out came sixe ladies, all in crimosin sattin & plunket embroidered with gold & perle, & thei daunced alone. Then the Lordes took the ladies, and daunced together ; & the ladies re-entered, and the mound closed, and so was conveighed out of the hall. Then the Kyng shifted hym & came to the Quene, and sat at the banqute, which was very sumpteous."

The Princess Mary, when only fourteen years of age, appeared in one of the Greenwich masks, " heading the damsels," and we are told " her beauty, in an array of cloth of gold with a richly jewelled garland, was such that everybody gave themselves up solely to the contemplation of so fair an angel, who seemed bedecked with all the gems of the eighth sphere."

It was from Greenwich that Henry went in state by water to launch the famous warship " Great Harry," a ceremony reported to be the grandest pageant ever witnessed on the Thames. The King, on this occasion, wearing vest and breeches of cloth of gold with scarlet stockings, had round his neck a gold chain and whistle, the badge of his rank as the head of the navy ; the whistle which to-day is worn by boatswains commemorates the great event.

When the King was at Greenwich, fame first came to the Court fool, Will Sommers, who influenced his royal master in a way that few Court favourites ever equalled. He tamed the

tyrant's ferocity, and urged him on to good and kind actions. In his "Nest of Ninnies" Armin thus describes this laughing philosopher:

"A comely fool indeed, passing more stately; who was this forsooth? Will Sommers, & not meanly esteemed by the king for his merriment; his melody was of a higher straine, and he lookt as the noone broad waking.

"Will Sommers, born in Shropshire, as some say,
Was brought to Greenwich on a holy day;
Presented to the king, which foole disdained
To shake him by the hand, or else ashamed:

"Leane he was, hollow-eyed, as all report,
And Stoope he did, too; yet in all the Court
Few men were more belov'd than was this foole,
Whose merry prate kept with the king much rule."

Not content with his magnificent palace at Greenwich, Henry formed a plan by which Duke Humphrey's Tower was converted into a residence where fair favourites could be housed beyond reach of Court circles. In 1526 he repaired "Greenwich Castle," as the tower was then called, and the younger branches of the Royal Family were at first housed there; but, on other occasions, discarded servants of state were imprisoned in it. Finally the place was fitted up for one or other of the ladies who, recognized only as mistresses, were deemed unworthy of any social standing.

There is a story given by Pattenham, in his Art of English Poesy, that "the King, having Flamock with him in his barge going from Westminster to Greenwich, to visit a fayre Lady whom the King loved, who was lodged in the tower in the park; the King, coming within sight of the tower, and being disposed to be merrie, said 'Flamock, let us run,'" We do not know what was the result of the King's running, nor its immediate

object. However, His Majesty was always in a hurry when ladies were concerned.

Henry's son, Edward, was born at Greenwich Palace; after his accession to his father's throne, the boy king spent more time here than at any other of the royal houses. He kept Christmas at the palace on two occasions. Like his father, Edward was fond of visiting the neighbouring dockyards and of supping on board ship with his Lord High Admiral. A curious bill is in existence for £88 6 2 in payment for paving Deptford High Street, which was "so noysome & full of fylth that the Kynges Majestie myght not pass to & fro to see the buylding of His shippes."

At this palace the young King breathed his last on July 6th, 1553, not without some suspicion of poison.

"Edward VI was not yet 16 at the time of his death. The good and strangely learned prince, though he died young, he lived long, for, life is in action"—so said Hooker.

Another writer, Henry Machyn, exclaimed, "At his burial, was the greatest moan made for him of his death, as ever was heard or seen, both of all sorts of people, weeping and lamenting."

Charles Lamb also alludes to his death in these words:

"That godly and royal child, King Edward VI, the flower of the Tudor name—that young flower that was untimely cropped as it began to fill our land with its early odours—the boy patron of boys—the serious and holy child who walked with Cranmer and Ridley—fit associate in those tender years, for the bishops and future martyrs of our Church, to receive, or (as occasion sometimes proved) to give instruction."

During her brief and terrible reign Mary was an occasional resident at Greenwich. On one such visit a singular incident occurred, whether by accident or design it is not known. The captain of a passing vessel, observing the royal banner floating above the palace, fired the customary salute to honour the presence of the Sovereign. By some oversight, it is conjectured,

his gun was loaded with ball, and this was driven through the palace wall into the Queen's apartment, to the great terror of Mary and her ladies, none of whom, however, received any hurt.

The reaction which set in after the accession of Mary's half-sister brought happier days for Greenwich. It being Elizabeth's birthplace, improvements were immediately undertaken by her, and the Palace of Placentia once more became the seat of pageantry and splendour.

In the first year of her reign a great review was held in the park at Greenwich, described at length by Miss Strickland, who says :

"The Londoners were so lovingly disposed to their maiden sovereign, that, when she withdrew to her summer bowers at Greenwich, they were fain to devise all sorts of gallant shows to furnish excuses for following her there, to enjoy from time to time the sunshine of her presence. They prepared a civic tournament in honour of her Majesty, each company supplying a certain number of men at arms, 1400 in all, all clad in velvet and chains of gold, with guns, morris pikes, halberds, and flags, and so marched they over London Bridge and mustered before the Lord Mayor in Southwark, and lay abroad in St. George's Fields all that night.

"The next morning they marched to Greenwich park and down into the lawn, and mustered in their arms, all the gunners being in shirts of mail. It was not till eventide that her Majesty deigned to make herself visible to the doughty bands of Cockayne—chivalry they cannot properly be called, for they had discreetly avoided exposing civic horsemanship to the mockery of the gallant equestrians of the Court, and trusted no other legs than their own with the weight of their valour and warlike accoutrements, in addition to their velvet gabardines and chains of gold, in which this midsummer bevy had bivouacked on the preceding night. At 5 o'clock the queen

came into the gallery of the park gate, with the ambassadors, lords and ladies—a fair and numerous company—to witness a tilting match, in which some of her citizens and several of her grace's courtiers took part."

St. George's Day was observed usually at Greenwich with great pomp, combining a religious service with the picturesque ordinances of this chivalric institution. "All her Majesty's chapel came through the hall in copes, to the number of thirty, singing 'O God the Father of heaven' etc.; the outward court being strewn with all manner of flowers, both of the field and garden, as roses, julyflowers, lavender, marygolds, and all manner of herbs and rushes, amid the greatest shout as ever was heard."

The Queen's first chapter of the Order of the Garter was held in St. George's Hall, at Greenwich; and during the afternoon of St. George's Day she went by water to Baynard's Castle to sup with the Earl of Pembroke. After supper she again took boat and was rowed up and down the river amongst her rejoicing subjects, all joined in the fun of the music and sights of the Thames. In the evening there was an aquatic festival, and trumpets blew, drums beat, flutes and lutes were played, while guns and fireworks added to the din. This continued till ten at night, when the Queen returned to Greenwich, doubtless well pleased with the entertainment, the first of its kind given in her honour.

Hospitality on a lavish scale being resumed at this time, it was said that no stranger who had ostensible business to enact, no matter his rank, was ever turned away empty from the palace gates.

Another custom revived by this Queen is described by Miss Violet Wilson thus:

"Elizabeth kept her Maundy at Greenwich, the great hall being swept and garnished for the occasion. At the upper end stood a table for the chaplain, with a pile of soft cushions and

a praying stool, in front, for the Queen. Opposite were long tables laden with gifts, whilst ranged against the wall were benches for the beneficiaries.

"All being ready, into the hall hobbled thirty-nine old women who sat down on the forms. . . . Towards them pompously advanced the yeomen of the laundry; washed and dried the thirty-nine old ladies' feet, finally imprinting a chaste kiss on each of their horny big toes. In imitation came the almoner, followed in turn by the sub-almoner.

"These preliminaries ended, the Queen entered, magnificent in black velvet, followed in procession by thirty-nine ladies of the privy chamber. At the conclusion of the special service he ladies went towards the long tables, girded themselves with, aprons, and taking up thirty-nine basins filled with warm water and floating flowers prepared to attend the Queen.

"Thirty-nine nervous old ladies wriggled their feet among the rushes as the Queen knelt down before them one by one, and washed, dried, crossed and kissed their great toes."

After this, presents, including sides of salmon, ling, red herrings and two loaves of bread, also wine, etc. Finally the Queen, unattended, presented white leather purses containing thirty-nine pence, and thirty-nine red ones "holding twenty shillings."

Like her father before her, Queen Elizabeth improved the English Navy, as witnessed by the famous naval events of her reign. The diarist, Machyn, records the naming of a royal ship as follows:

"The Queen's grace toke her barg at Grenwyche into Wolwyche to her new shype & ther yt was namyd Elesabeth Jon[as], & after here grace had a goodly bankett & ther wa grett shutyng of gunes & casting of fyre about mad for plesur."

"The shipp called Elizabeth Jonas," says another writer, "was so named in rememberance of her Grace's owne deliverance from the furye of her enemys, from which in one respect

she was no less myraculously preserved than was the prophet Jonas from the belly of the whale."

An important promise was made to the Huguenots by the Queen when in residence at Greenwich, through which the persecuted refugees from France were allowed to settle in England and carry on their manufactures so long as the articles were those "not used to be made in this realm."

Many accounts of Elizabeth's life at "L'Pleazaunce" are to be found, and among the most interesting of these is a recently discovered one described in the "Journey through England and Scotland" made by Leopold von Wedel at a time when the Queen was yet in the prime of life. This observant traveller from Austria visited the English Court when Elizabeth was in residence at various places, and has left to us a refreshing account of the ceremonies in connection with the "spacious days of Good Queen Bes." The date is given as 1585, and the story runs thus:

"On the last day of holy Christmastide, I went 5 miles down the Thames, from London, to 'Grunewitz,' where the Queen is now in residence. Arrived at the palace, I went first into the chapel which is hung with gold. The pulpit is covered with red gold-embroidered velvet. In one half of the church stands a large, high gilded altar and there, divided off from the rest, is a recess entirely of gold cloth out of which the Queen comes when she is about to receive the Sacrament. Then I went into a large room before the Queen's chamber hung with tapestry wrought in silver and gold. Here I waited until she went to church. As at 'Hampen Kort' she was accompanied by her gentlemen and her ladies-in-waiting, who, on this occasion were more gorgeously dressed. The Queen, being in mourning, was dressed in black velvet sumptuously embroidered with silver and pearls. Over her robe she had a silver shawl, that was full of meshes and diaphanous like a piece of gossamer tissue. But this shawl gleamed as though

it were bespangled with tissue, and it hung down over her robe as low as the hem of her skirt. While she was at church a long table was made ready in the room previously described, under the canopy of cloth of gold. On her return from the church there were served at this table 40 large and silver dishes, all of gilt silver, with various meats. She alone took her seat at the table. At no other time throughout the whole year does the Queen dine in public, and it is only on feast days that a stranger can see her at meals. After the Queen had sat down, a table was set up at the end of the room near the door, and at this table 5 countesses took their seats. A young nobleman habited in black carved the meats for the Queen, and a gentleman of about the same age arrayed in green, served her beverages. This gentleman had to remain kneeling as long as she was drinking; when she had finished, he rose and removed the goblet. There stood, at her right hand Lord Hower. There stood further Mylord Lester, the Master of the Horse. He is said to have had a love-affair with the Queen for a long time. Now he has a wife. Then there was Mylord Hertford, who, they say, of all Englishmen has the most right to the Throne. He it is who got one of the Queen's ladies with child and married another much against the Queen's will. Further there was Christopher Hatten, who is said to have been her lover after Lester. All of them had white staffs in their hands and were handsome old gentlemen. If she summoned one of them, as often happened—for, as a rule, she speaks continuously—he had to kneel until she commanded him to rise. Then they made a low bow and retired. When they came to the centre of the room they bowed again, stepped down from the dais and had the next course served up. They walked before the bearers of the viands, who were knights and nobles. Of the dishes there were now only 24. On either side of the room, but not near the table, there stood knights, squires and ladies near those who were in charge of the drinking

vessels. Her musicians were also in the apartment and discoursed excellent music. She soon rose from the table. The 5 countesses rose, and having twice made a deep courtesy to the Queen, passed over to the other side. She turned her back to the table, whereupon 2 bishops stepped forward and said grace. After them came 3 earls, and took a large basin, which was covered like a meat-dish and of gilt and silver, and 2 of the old gentlemen held a towel. The 5 of them then advanced to the Queen and knelt down before her. They then raised the lid from the basin which was held by 2 of them. A third poured water over the Queen's hands, who before washing her hands, drew off a ring and handed it to the Lord Chamberlain. After washing her hands she again drew on the ring. She then took an earl's son by the cloak and retired with him to a bow window. She afterwards seated herself on the floor on a cushion. Then a dance began, the men and women linking hands. The former donned their hats or bonnets, although otherwise no one, however exalted his rank, may put on his hat in the Queen's chamber, whether she be present or not. The dance, a pavanne, was danced only by the most eminent—who were no longer young. After this a gaillard was danced by one and all.

"During the dancing she chatted and jested most amiably with the young men, and pointing with her finger at the face of one Master or Captain Rall (Raleigh), told him that there was posset on it. She also offered to wipe it off with her handkerchief, but he anticipating her removed it himself. The dancing at an end the Queen waved her hand to those present and retired to her chamber."

An account given by another foreign traveller, Hentzner by name, of Queen Elizabeth is interesting for comparison with the one just narrated. In this "Itinerarium" will be found details concerning Her Majesty when growing old. He observes that the Queen, coming out to prayers at Greenwich, was

attended by barons, earls and knights of the Garter with heads uncovered; then the chancellor bearing the seals; then Her Majesty, who was at that time in her sixty-fifth year. "She was very majestic, her face oblong, fair, but wrinkled; her eyes small and black, but still pleasant, her nose a little hooked, her lips narrow, and her teeth black; she wore two pearls in her ears, with very rich drops; she also wore false hair, and that red; upon her head was a small crown, made, it is said, of some of the gold of the celebrated Lunebourgh table. Her bosom was uncovered, adorned with a necklace of costly jewels; her hands were small and her fingers taper, her stature of middle height, and her manner of speaking mild and obliging. That day she was dressed in white silk, bordered with pearls of the size of beans, and over it a mantle of black silk, shot with silver; her train was very long, the end of which was borne by a Marchioness. Instead of a chain, she had an oblong collar of gold and jewels. She spoke graciously to foreign ministers in English, French and Italian, for, in addition to her understanding Greek and Latin, which she was also well acquainted with, she was mistress of Spanish, Scotch and Dutch. Everyone spoke to her kneeling. The ladies following her were extremely handsome and elegantly shaped, and were attired in white dresses."

The elaboration of ceremonial at this period was certainly bordering on the ridiculous, and, no matter whether the Queen was present or not, no detail was omitted, as will be gathered from what our informant saw at Greenwich, in preparation for the royal dinner, Her Majesty at the moment being at chapel.

"A gentleman entered the room, bearing a rod, and along with him another, who had a table cloth, which, after they had both kneeled three times, with the utmost veneration, he spread upon the table; and after kneeling again they both retired. Then came two others, one with the rod again, the other with a salt-cellar, a plate, and bread, when they had kneeled, and

placed what was brought upon the table, they too retired with the same ceremonies performed by the first. At last came an unmarried lady (we were told she was a Countess), and along with her, a married one, bearing a tasting knife, the former when she had prepared herself three times, in the most graceful manner, approached the table, rubbed the plates with bread and salt, with as much awe as if the Queen had been present. Then the yeomen of the Guard entered, bareheaded, clothed in scarlet, with a golden rose upon their backs, bringing in at each turn, a course of twenty-four dishes, served in plates, most of them gilt; these dishes were received by gentlemen in the same order they were brought, and placed upon the table, while the lady-taster gave to each of the guard a mouthful to eat of the particular dish he had brought, for fear of any poison. During this time, twelve trumpets and two kettle drums made the hall ring for half an hour together.

"At the end of this ceremonial a number of unmarried ladies appeared, who, with particular solemnity, lifted the meat off the table and conveyed it into the queen's inner and more private chamber."

Let us hope that there were no *soufflés* or omelettes included in that score of dishes, for they never would have survived so trying and lengthy an ordeal.

In contrast with all the conservatism and carefully calculated ceremonial effect narrated in this "Itinerarium," it is refreshing to turn for a moment and recite an impromptu act at Greenwich on the part of one of the Queen's courtiers.

Sir Walter Raleigh, after his triumphal return from Ireland, was introduced to Elizabeth at Greenwich. The impressionable Queen soon advanced her handsome new acquaintance to a prominent position about her royal person. His instantaneous success is said to have been due to the almost fantastic display of gallantry, which was shown by him on one occasion before his admiring mistress. He was "attending her Majesty in a

walk," we read, " when she came to a place where her progress was obstructed by a mire. Without a moment's hesitation Raleigh took off his rich plush cloak, and spread it on the ground for her foot-cloth. She was highly pleased with this practical flattery, and it was remarked that this sacrifice of a cloak gained him many a *good suit*."

Some say that this episode occurred elsewhere, while other historians vouch for another romantic event as happening at Greenwich, affirming that it was on the window-glass of a pavilion in the gardens at this palace that the same courtier, grown bold, at a later date, scratched with a diamond these words :

" Fain would I climb but that I fear to fall."

Elizabeth, on reading them, promptly completed the couplet by giving her advice thus :

" If thy heart fail thee, do not climb at all ! "

One more dramatic touch remains to be told before Elizabeth retires from the scene where she first saw light. Miss Strickland says :

" The terror of the plague was always uppermost in the minds of all persons in the sixteenth century, at every instance of sudden death. One day, the queen was conversing with her ladies in her privy chamber here, when, on a sudden, the ' mother of the maids ' was seized with illness, and expired directly in her presence. Queen Elizabeth was so much alarmed at this circumstance, that in less than an hour she left her palace at Greenwich, and went to Westminster, where she remained."

After visiting the great royal houses, Baron Breuner writes :

" I have seen several very fine summer residences that belong to Queen Elizabeth, in two of which (Greenwich being one) I have been myself, and, I may say that there are none

in the world so richly garnished with costly furniture of silk, adorned with gold, pearls and precious stones. Then she has some twenty other houses, all of which might justly be called royal summer residences. Hence she is well worth the trouble."

This attractive description of the royal possessions was sent in a letter to the Archduke Charles, who was a suitor for Elizabeth's hand, and, apparently, also for what that hand held.

Two years after the death of Elizabeth, King James I settled Greenwich Palace on his Queen, Anne of Denmark, who forthwith rebuilt with brick the garden front of the palace, in the fashion of the day, and laid the foundations of a building near the park, called "The House of Delight." The park itself was also provided with brick walls as a protection against intrusion. There were many grand pageants and tilts enacted during the residence of the King at Greenwich; and there is on record a complaint made by the Lord Mayor that he had been "ordered by the Lords of the Council to supply two hundred pair-horse carts and the Lord Mayor's barge for removing the king's effects to Greenwich." He respectfully pointed out that "the Lord Mayor's barge was not intended for the conveyance of baggage."

In this reign, one dark night, that ill-fated lady, Arabella Stuart, disguised as a Court gallant, set out from Greenwich on her attempted flight to France; however, owing to the unpunctuality of her tailor, the ebb tide was lost, together with the opportunity for accomplishing the projected journey.

It was also when passing the palace secretly in a boat, during his final attempt to escape after his trial on returning from his last unsuccessful Guiana voyage in 1618, that Sir Walter Raleigh was intercepted and captured through the treachery of his cousin, Sir Lewis Stukley: "Judas" Stukley the men of Devon afterwards called the villain. However, the descendants of Sir Lewis have regained their fame as members

QUEEN'S HOUSE, GREENWICH.

of a worthy county family living in honourable peace among their neighbours.

Raleigh was brought back to the place of his early triumphs and hurried off from Greenwich to the Tower, like Anne Boleyn before him, there to suffer and meet his end under the headsman's axe.

Edward Fraser, in his recent "Greenwich Hospital," affirms it was off this place that the first submarine ever seen in England made its appearance under the patronage of James I. Cornelius Drebbel—the appropriately-named inventor—was given an apartment in the palace during the construction of his pioneer work. The King proposed being submerged and was with difficulty dissuaded from the attempt.

It was said that, when below the surface in this boat, "a person could see under the water, and without candle-light, as much as he needed to read the Bible, or any other book."

James's daughter, the Princess Mary, was christened at Greenwich.

Charles I made frequent visits to the palace previous to the outbreak of Civil War; and his Queen, Henrietta Maria, so "finished and furnished the House of Delight" begun by Anne of Denmark, that, as Philipot, the Danish historian, observed, "it far surpasseth all other houses of the kind in England." Inigo Jones was the architect, and he completed the construction in 1635.

Queen's House, Greenwich, stands to-day upon the upper lawn, above the road separating it from the great range by the river. It is singularly modern in appearance, and at first sight its elevation appears more Georgian than Jacobean. There are no ornamental gables or pediments, its four faces being severely simple though of fine proportions.

From east and west many columned colonnades form approaches either side of the house, where archways admitted

coaches to be driven into small courts and out again on the further side. This carriage-way is now blocked up.

The interior of Queen's House is equally original. A square-galleried entrance hall has a wide corkscrew staircase leading from it. The handrail, in fine wrought iron, stretches from basement to roof in one continuous curve.

On the first floor, entered from the gallery, are two superb rooms of typical Inigo Jones design, comprising the drawing-room and bedroom of Queen Henrietta Maria. The former possesses an elaborate ceiling and carved frieze. Swags and pendent festoons of fruit and flowers, reminiscent of Wilton House, form the wall decorations, all of which retain the original gilding.

The enrichment of the State bedroom is confined to the coved ceiling, painted by Italian artists.

A feature in some of the ground-floor rooms is the use of a material described by a resident as "worthless Lincrusta Walton." In reality it appears to be papier mâché moulded into designs of panelling in the Jacobean taste and utilized as a filling under the dado rail. It is fastened by small copper nails.

The large sash windows of uniform pattern, seen on all four sides of the house, are among the earliest examples of this type made in England.

After many and varied uses this "House of Delight" is soon to be worthy of its name, for in it will be placed the superb collection of pictures and models of ships recently acquired for the nation.

It is said that the Tudor palace of "Placentia" was at its greatest splendour at this period. The few pictures of it by contemporary artists are so conflicting that it is by no means an easy task to judge to-day of its actual appearance; not a vestige of the three Gothic quadrangles has survived; the "First," the "Hall" and the "Conduit" Courts have vanished;

RIVER FRONT, GREENWICH PALACE.

the Gallery, with the famous collection of pictures brought together by the King; the armoury, which housed eleven full suits, silvered and gilded, many sets of war-horse mail, shields, belts and stirrups—all have vanished. However, until the eve of the Great Civil War, Charles constantly kept his Court at Greenwich, and it was from here that the Queen crossed to the Continent in order to secure arms for the Royalist levies which were expected to gather round the King. Charles accompanied his Queen as far as Dover—but all in vain. His last public act at the palace was a refusal to give up his son when a deputation from both Houses of Parliament arrived to convey the Prince of Wales to Whitehall.

In 1652 the Commonwealth, requiring funds for the navy, it was resolved "that Greenwich House, park and lands should be immediately sold for ready money."

This same year John Evelyn entered in his diary: "We went this afternoon to see the Queen's House, now given by the rebells to Bulstrode Whitlock, one of their unhappy counsellors and keepers of pretended liberties."

The best use the authorities could find for Greenwich Palace was to transform it into a prison for the Dutch sailors of Tromp's fleet, to the number of several hundreds.

In 1660, at the restoration of King Charles II, the palace being then greatly decayed, the remains of it were pulled down and a new palace designed. One wing of this new building was completed at a cost of £36,000, and it now forms the west wing of the present hospital.

Ten years after his first visit John Evelyn returned to Greenwich "to consult with Sir John Denham, about placing the new palace, which I would have had built between the river and the Queen's House, so as a large square cutt should have let in the Thames like a bay; but Sir John was for setting it on piles at the very brink of the water, knowing Sir John to be a better poet than architect." Inigo Jones's son-in-law,

Webb, was called in, and it is to his designs that we owe the general plan of the present stately pile.

In the following year Pepys wrote:

"At Greenwich I observed the foundation laying of a very great house for the king, which will cost a great deal of money"; and later, "the king mighty pleased with the new buildings"; finally he added, "landed at the kings house, which goes on slow, but is very pretty."

Charles only completed one wing of the palace, but the park was laid out afresh by him in the formal fashion of the day under the direction of the famous French gardener, Le Nôtre.

Neither James II nor William III cared for Greenwich, but Queen Mary conceived a noble use for the then unfinished building—that of a hospital for disabled seamen. After the victory of La Hogue in 1692 Mary publicly declared, in the name of the King, that the palace was to be completed "and should be a retreat for seamen disabled in the service of their country."

We are told by Miss Strickland that "the Princess Anne, and Prince George of Denmark, with their attendants, received Queen Mary at Greenwich Palace. The royal sisters met each other 'with transports of affection'; says Lady Churchill, 'which soon fell off, and coldness ensued.' But not then; both were too much elated with their success to disagree in that hour of joy and exultation."

After Mary's death, "the affection with which her husband cherished her memory was soon attested by a monument, the most superb that was ever erected to any sovereign," says Macaulay. "A plan was furnished by Sir Christopher Wren, who refused any emolument for his labour, and soon an edifice surpassing that Asylum which the magnificent Louis had provided for his soldiers, rose on the margin of the Thames."

The complete structure standing to-day is considered, accord-

ing to Edward Walford, to be " the finest specimen of classical architecture in this or almost any other country." His opinion may not be shared by all, but without doubt Greenwich Hospital, as seen from the River Thames when lit up by the warm rays of a setting sun, is a superlatively impressive sight. In its quiet grandeur, both within and without, this relic of the early days of British naval power constitutes a fitting abode in which our brave sailors can spend the declining years of their lives in peace.

# CHAPTER IX

## JERICHO

" Joy to the fair ! my name unknown,
Each deed and all its praise thine own ;
Then, oh ! unbar this churlish gate,
The night dew falls, the hour is late.
Let graceful love quell maiden shame,
And grant him bliss who brings thee fame."

Old Song.

THE county of Essex—even in its remote recesses—scarcely suggests any tangible connection with Jericho. Perhaps it was for this very reason that the name, known vaguely as that of a far-distant city long since fallen, was deliberately chosen for a royal retreat to which a harassed monarch might fly in secret when in search of relief from the conventionalities and restrictions of life at Court. In the thronged palaces of State men's eyes were widely open to observe the royal actions which governed the trend of diplomatic affairs, while women's ears were strained for the reception of scandal inseparable from the known or imagined whims and aspirations of those royal personages to whom temptation comes.

Beyond Chipping Ongar, lying snugly between arterial roads from London, there nestles the picturesque, red-tiled village of Blackmore, renowned for its Norman church and massive wooden tower reminiscent of a house made with a pack of cards. Close by stands the principal residence, Jericho House, built on the site of an earlier dwelling, screened by high brick walls and protected by an extensive moat fed from the River Can, known locally as the " Jordan." An air of innocence and

THE JORDAN, JERICHO.

unsophisticated life now pervades the scene; nothing remains to suggest a lurid past.

In Tudor days there were many royal manors in Essex, all frequently visited by their owner: New Hall and Horeham to the east, Gosfield towards Suffolk, Havering-atte-Bower and another in Epping Forest. These were principally used for hunting. Jericho, on the other hand, appears to have been devoted entirely to social purposes, without the attendance of any save a few boon companions on pleasure bent with the King.

The ancient Priory of Blackmore was granted by Henry VIII to Wolsey; whether this was given as "hush money" to the Chancellor is not known. The adjoining house of Jericho was reserved for the exclusive use of Henry as a house of pleasure where he could indulge himself in the embraces of his courtesans unknown to the outside world. No doubt the regulations made for the King's peace of mind when at Court were also observed at Jericho, and that "the King's Highness have his privy chamber and inward lodgings reserved secret, at the pleasure of his grace, without repair of any great multitude."

The gentlemen and grooms were enjoined "not to hearken and enquire where the king is, or goeth, be it early or late, without grudging, mumbling or talking of the king's pastime; late or early going to bed." Nor were they to repeat any Court gossip.

The ceremonies connected with the King's bedmaking were no doubt curtailed at this pleasure house. It was scarcely necessary that eight yeomen of the bedchamber should be summoned and commanded by the gentleman usher, but it is to be hoped that "a yeoman with a dagger searched the straw of the bed that there is no untruth therein, tumbling over it for the search thereof." After the bed was levelled, the pillows smoothed and the sheets tucked up, the yeomen

made crosses upon it, sprinkled it with holy water, and kissed it; finally a groom kept guard "unto the time the king be disposed to go to it."

It may be observed that Henry revealed his own character in the songs he wrote, some in French, which he set to music. Several of these compositions became extremely popular, and are still so with an enlightened few. In one song, called "Pastime with Good Companie," his favourite for singing, the King declares that his heart is set on hunting and singing, dancing and love. He warmly pleads for youth that it "must have some dalliance."

In others of his love songs he justifies his amours on various pretexts, characteristically resolving to give up pleasure at last, when he is too old to enjoy it. He lays claim to the virtue of constancy in love, declaring:

> "As the holly groweth and never changeth hue,
> So I am, ever have been, unto my lady true."

An old historian wrote:

"The roofs are still standing beneath which Henry sheltered his mistresses and feasted with his gallants. Hither he often retired, not only to indulge his illicit pleasures and rural tastes, but no doubt also to brood over those stern measures by which, in the latter half of his reign, he succeeded in breaking down and revolutionizing the long settled religious feeling of a whole people." The bells of Blackmore church, which at that time called the villagers to the services of the reformed religion, told no tales of the royal reformer, who, also within their sound at the moment, was "enjoying the soft oblivion of lascivious extacy."

Jericho was the birthplace of a natural son of Henry VIII—Henry FitzRoy—whose mother was Elizabeth Talbois, daughter of Sir John Blount and widow of Sir Gilbert Talbois.

The boy's royal father became passionately fond of him and bestowed many honours upon the youth, who showed great promise of ability. First he was created Earl of Nottingham, then Duke of Richmond—after his grandfather, Henry VII—and also Duke of Somerset. He was a Knight of the Garter at the age of six. Not content with these civil titles, the King made his bastard son Admiral of England, Ireland and Normandy before he was nine years old.

Henry FitzRoy grew to man's estate and was a friend of the gallant and accomplished Earl of Surrey, whose poems make a distinguished figure in literature. Marrying Mary, daughter of the Duke of Norfolk, when quite young, this pathetic youth died, leaving no child to perpetuate his name. Alas for the fond hopes of a King who, having endeavoured to move both heaven and earth to beget an heir, failed to prolong his line even when all scruples were thrown aside in order to accomplish this end!

To what purpose, then, did Henry so persistently "go to Jericho"? A negative result is all that history can record.

This secluded abode in Essex suffered a destruction more complete than that of its more famous namesake by the Dead Sea, where the city walls remain to a considerable height above ground after the lapse of thousands of years. There are no traces left of the original Jericho House, but the Jordan still protects the site and skirts the rebuilt encircling walls of the enclosure, within which the gardens flourish and blossom with lad's love, love-lies-bleeding and the pale forget-me-not.

A long, low building of undoubted Tudor construction, now an inn and situated at the approach to Jericho, is claimed to be the stables of Henry VIII. It is constructed with oak framing and is slightly bowed in front to avoid a sharp corner from the main road. It is possible that this inn was one of those royal hostels usually provided for certain guests who were unworthy to be considered as personal friends of the King.

# CHAPTER X

## HATFIELD

" In the midst was seen
A Lady of a more majestic mien,
By stature and by beauty mark'd their Sovereign Queen."
" The Flower and the Leaf."

IN the reign of King Edgar, Hatfield was in the possession of "a certain powerful man" named Œdmær, whose daughter Æthelflæd became the King's wife. Œdmær demised the forty hides of the manor to Edgar, by whom it was transferred to the monks of Ely.

The Bishops of Ely from an early date had a house at Hatfield where they frequently resided, and at times entertained royal visitors. King John passed through Hatfield in 1211, and Edward I spent a few days there in 1303. Edward II also stayed at the manor, and Edward III six times visited it during his tours through England.

John Morton, who held the offices of Master of the Rolls and Lord Chancellor, became Bishop of Ely in 1479 and was elevated to the Archbishopric of Canterbury in 1486, subsequently receiving a Cardinal's hat. A few years before his death this great prelate, who built the gate-house at Lambeth, enlarged the parish church of Hatfield and erected, in close proximity to it, a magnificent palace. Begun in 1496, and planned on a grand scale, this superb house was to be a worthy abode for the Cardinal-Archbishop and his extensive retinue, but the ambitious Morton died soon after its completion. The principal quadrangle, measuring 218 feet square, was situated where the sunk garden is seen to-day. The great gateway faced

the site where Hatfield House now stands. Within this imposing arched entrance the great hall formed the centre of the main court.

This hall, together with the adjoining domestic quarters, remains externally intact and gives some idea of the style of architecture which pervaded the entire palace.

Two sides of this quadrangle were demolished a little more than one hundred years after the palace was completed, the materials being used in the building of Hatfield House.

That which remains of the old palace is of exceeding interest, for the Cardinal's house was one of the first great homes in England, built solely for the sake of habitation. It preceded by a few years the Palace of Richmond, with which it may be compared.

At Hatfield gate-houses protected the quadrangles, and an additional means of security was afforded by the towers at the porched entrances to the banqueting hall. There were "crow-steps" also, but these survivals of an earlier style were employed as an architectural embellishment rather than as a means of defence.

The building is entirely of brick, and was a triumph of construction for the master mason responsible for its erection.

Alterations were made in the reign of Charles I, when the great hall and two adjoining chambers were cleared and transformed, in order to render them more commodious for the stabling of horses, to which low degree the old palace had by that time fallen.

The grotesque heads supporting the arches of the fine oak and chestnut open roof, and also the contemporary stained glass, are details worthy of notice.

Not long after the building of this palace an event took place which shows how lax the discipline of an episcopal house had become under the influence of the New Learning.

This was none other than the birth of a child of royal blood

within the palace walls. An account of it is set forth as follows in the Egerton MSS. :

"The christening of the Lady Fraunces, first begotten daughter of Charles, Duke of Suffolk, and Mary the French Queen (daughter of Henry VII, and widow of Louis XII of France).

"In the year of Our Lord 1517 and the ninth year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry VIII, Thursday, the 17th day of July, betwixt two and three of the clock in the morning, was born at Bishop's Hatfield the first daughter of Mary, Queen of France, and Charles, Duke of Suffolk, whose christening was deferred till the Saturday next following, provision whereof was ordered in this manner following :

"First from the Palace to the Church was strawed of a good thickness with rushes, and the church porch was hanged and ceiled with rich cloth of gold and needlework, and the church all hanged with rich cloth of arras of the history of Holofernes and Hercules, and the chancel hanged with rich cloth of arras of silk and gold, and the altar hanged with rich cloth of tissue, whereon were certain images, relics and jewels. And in the said chancel was the Queen of England's grace and my Lady Princesse deputies for them :—appointed for the Queen, my Lady Boleyn (Elizabeth, wife of Sir James Boleyn), for the princess my Lady Elizabeth Grey, and the Abbot of St. Albans, godfather. The font was hanged with a rich canopy of crimson satin, powdered with roses, half red and half white, with the sun shining and fleurs de lys of gold and the French Queen's arms in four places of the same canopy, all of needlework.

"And from the Palace to the Church were 80 torches borne by yeomen and 8 borne by gentlemen, about the said ladye in good order.

"And thus in good order, as aforesaid, the young lady was conveyed into the church with esquires, lords and ladies.

"The bason covered was borne by Mr. Sturton—the tapir borne by Mr. Richard Long and the salte borne by Mr. Humphrey Barnes.

"My Lady Shelton the Chrysom—Mrs. Dorothy Verney, bearing the young lady, assisted by the Lord Powys and Sir Roger Pilston, and accompanied with ladies and gentlemen sixty, and the Prelates Sir Oliver Poole and Sir Christopher and others of my Lords chaplains.

"And this done, the young lady was conveyed to the Queen's grace her mother, and the name of this lady was Frances for that she was born of St. Francis day."

This child became the mother of Lady Jane Grey, and was for a short period herself declared heir to the throne by Act of Parliament; her claim being only set aside by the intrigues of Dudley, Earl of Northumberland, who espoused the cause of her unfortunate daughter.

When Roger Ascham, her tutor, asked why Lady Jane took so much pleasure in reading Plato instead of amusing herself like other young ladies, he received this reply:

"When I am in presence either of father or mother, whether I speak, keep silent, sit, stand or go; eat, drink, be merry or sad; be sewing, playing, dancing or doing anything else, I must do it, as it were, in such might, measure and number, even so perfectly as God made the world, or else I am so sharply taunted, so cruelly threatened, yea! presently sometimes with pinches, nips and bobs and other ways (which I will not name for the horror I bear them), so without measure disordered, that I think myself in Hell, till the time come that I must go to Mr. Aylmer" (her schoolmaster).

Not content with the enormous revenue obtained from the suppression of the religious establishments throughout the country and the acquisition of Hampton Court Palace from Wolsey, Henry VIII coveted possession of Cardinal Morton's palace at Hatfield.

On the death of Bishop West, who had resided at Hatfield by virtue of his appointment to the See of Ely, an opportunity occurred for converting the episcopal palace into a royal residence. In offering the bishopric to Goodrich, Henry stipulated that the Manor of Bishops Hatfield should be exchanged for other manors in Essex and Cambridge within the diocese, properties but recently confiscated in value and extent far inferior to the lands surrounding the palace of Morton's building, with which the King proceeded to invest himself.

Henry, though he laid his hands on the manor with indecent haste, rarely resided there himself, but used the palace mainly as a nursery for his children in preference to Eltham, where the King himself had been brought up, but where there was a moat considered by this time to be unhealthy, and which was finally abandoned on that account by his daughter Elizabeth when she came to the throne.

Henry's first visit after his acquisition of the palace appears to have been "because of the sweat" elsewhere. Although the Master of the Horse, who was custodian of Hatfield, "complained of his head," says Henneage, "nevertheless the king is merry and takes no conceit."

There is a description of Hatfield Palace written about the time that it passed from ecclesiastical into royal possession; it runs as follows:

"A very goodly and stately manor place, constructed alle of brykke, having in the same very stately lodgynges with romes and offices to the same very necessary and expedient, albeit in some places it ys oute of reparaciones."

At this period the Great Chamber was over the buttery and kitchen to the north of the Banqueting Hall, but these rooms were gutted when converted into stables in the seventeenth century.

Internally the chief feature of the existing wing is the continuous open timber roof of eleven bays, without variation

HATFIELD PALACE.

of detail, which covers that portion of the palace containing the great hall and the great upper chamber.

The wall plates and purlins are moulded and the wind braces are ogee-shaped, as in the earlier hall at Eltham Palace.

The gate-house, standing at the north-west of the west front, indicates the position of one angle of the old forecourt. It faces the end of Fore Street, and forms the entrance to the palace from the town of Hatfield. Over the archway is a room with sixteenth-century tempera painting, representing a lion hunt. The general plan of the palace was similar to that of Eltham in the past and of Haddon Hall to-day.

Princess Elizabeth was sent from Greenwich to Hatfield when but three months old, and there is a pathetic story told of her life while at the latter place. Her elder half-sister, Mary, had been declared illegitimate, and had come to Hatfield as a lady in the suite of her younger rival.

Henry, still enamoured of Anne Boleyn, rode down hither to see his infant daughter, and during the visit the Princess Mary was refused audience of her father. Anxious even on his departure to gain some mark of royal favour, she mounted one of the towers of the palace (possibly one still standing over the entrance to the great hall) to wave him farewell; but the King set his face steadfastly towards London and rode on, heeding her not, but soon to change his mind once more in the matter of her succession to the throne of England.

The unhappy relations existing between the royal children did not diminish when they removed from Hatfield for change of air. On this occasion Mary, having refused to accompany Elizabeth, had to be put by force into a litter with the Queen's aunt and compelled to make court as before; however, she at once revenged herself by making public protest, and eventually, when Queen of England, she was able to return the compliment with interest.

Elizabeth was not long to be preferred as her father's

rightful heir, nor yet to enjoy supremacy over the elder daughter of the King. A letter of Lady Brian, her governess, to Thomas Cromwell, written probably after the execution of Elizabeth's mother had taken place, runs as follows :

" Now it is so, that my Lady Elizabeth is put from that degree she was afore, and what degree she is at now I know not but by hearsay ; therefore I know not how to order her, nor myself, nor none of hers that I have rule of—that is, her women and her grooms ; beseeching you to be good Lord to my Lady and to all hers, that she may have some raiment, for she hath neither gown nor kirtle nor petticoat, nor no manner of linen for smocks, nor kerchiefs, nor sleeves, nor rails, nor body stitchets, nor handkerchers, nor ruffers, nor biggins.

" All these I have driven off as long as I can, that, by my troth, I can drive it no longer ; beseeching you that you will see that her Grace may have that is needful for her.

" Master Shelton (the Master of the Household) would have my Lady Elizabeth to dine and sleep every day at the board of estate.

" Alas ! my Lord, it is not meet for a child of her age to keep such rule yet.

" I promise you, I dare not take it upon me to keep her Grace in health, an she keep that rule ; for there she shall see divers meats and fruits and wine, which would be hard for me to refrain her Grace from it.

" You may know, my Lord, there is no place of correction there and she is yet too young to correct greatly ; beseeching you that she may have a mess of meat to her own lodging, with a good dish or two that is meet for her Grace to eat of ; the reversion of the mess shall satisfy all her women and gentleman usher and a groom, which will be eleven persons on her side.

" God knoweth, my Lady hath great pain with her great teeth, and they come very slowly forth, and causeth me to suffer her Grace to have her will more than I would.

"I trust to God, and her teeth were well grafted, to have her Grace after another fashion than she is yet, so as, I trust, the King's Grace shall have great comfort in her Grace, for she is as toward a child and as gentle of condition as ever I knew in my life."

There are some interesting contemporary references to the early education of Elizabeth and her little brother Edward. In one of them it is recorded that "they desired to look upon books as soon as the day began."

Mr. Antrobus, who has had exceptional opportunities for studying the subject on the spot, observes in his history of Hatfield that the royal children's first hours were spent in prayer and religious exercises; the rest of the forenoon they were instructed either in languages or in some of the liberal sciences, or in moral learning. Elizabeth would then practise on the lute or virginal, and was wont afterwards to employ her needle. Edward received his first lessons in the French language from Richard Coxe, afterwards Bishop of Ely. The children were "called upon to hear sermons." Matthew Parker, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, preached before Elizabeth at Hatfield when she was but seven years of age.

During the reign of her half-sister, Mary, the younger princess was hurried from place to place through jealousy and religious rivalry, and, after many perilous journeys, Elizabeth found herself at Hatfield on the day when the news came that she had succeeded to the throne she was destined to adorn for so many eventful years.

The Great North Road leading from London to Hatfield was, on the morning of the 17th of November, 1558, the scene of incessant bustle and hurry. It is said that on this day the people of England felt that they had awakened from an evil bloody dream of six years' duration. Scarcely ever had death-bells pealed more merrily than those which announced to her subjects the death of Queen Mary.

Bexley Public Library
Bexleyheath
Welling and Bexley.

The thanksgiving multitude that rode out to Hatfield, there to bend the knee to a new Queen and to kiss her hands, were able to report that the streets of the metropolis were echoing with shouts of joy, and, on this day at least, Catholics and Protestants had forgotten their squabbles in the sure hope that never again would the faggot-piles burn in Smithfield, or the gloomy Spaniard hold his sinister sway.

The young Queen is said to have been seated under an oak tree—still pointed out to visitors at Hatfield—when the good news of her succession reached her ears, and the first act of Elizabeth, as Queen, was to offer up her thanks to God in acknowledgment of His blessings. This beautiful prayer runs thus :

"O Lord, Almighty and Eternal God! I give humble thanks unto Thee, for that Thou hast shown Thy Grace unto me, and kept me until this joyful day. For as Thou didst do unto Thy servant Daniel the Prophet whom Thou didst liberate out of the den from the cruelty of the roaring lions, even so was I in the toils, and Thou alone hast set me free."

Before setting out on her triumphal journey to London Queen Elizabeth held her first councils at the palace of Hatfield, probably beneath the roof of the great hall that may yet be seen almost as when first erected in the fifteenth century.

Although it was here that Philibert, Duke of Saxony, and Prince Eric, son of Gustavus Vasa of Sweden, respectively sought the hand of Elizabeth, and sought it in vain, Hatfield was not much in favour as a royal residence when so many places of happier memories became available. The more up-to-date palaces of Richmond and Hampton Court not only provided better accommodation, but were more conveniently situated on the River Thames for the display of pageantry which Elizabeth revived for the enjoyment of her subjects and her own pleasure.

Shortly after the death of Elizabeth, Hatfield was granted

BISHOPS HATFIELD FROM THE GARDEN.

in dower to Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. The King, who had been royally entertained at Theobalds when on his journey from Scotland to claim the English Crown, conceived the plan of making an exchange with his host, the Earl of Salisbury, and eventually entered into negotiations with him for carrying out the project by giving Hatfield to the head of the Cecil family and taking Theobalds for himself.

The old palace of Bishops Hatfield became a quarry for the erection of Hatfield House. The greater part of the building was demolished at this time, and Lord Salisbury removed from Theobalds to his new house six years after the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Thus it was that in less than one hundred years from its acquisition by Henry VIII the manor of Hatfield ceased to be a royal possession, the simply planned Tudor palace being succeeded by the magnificent Jacobean house still the principal residence of the family to which the property was transferred by King James I.

# CHAPTER XI

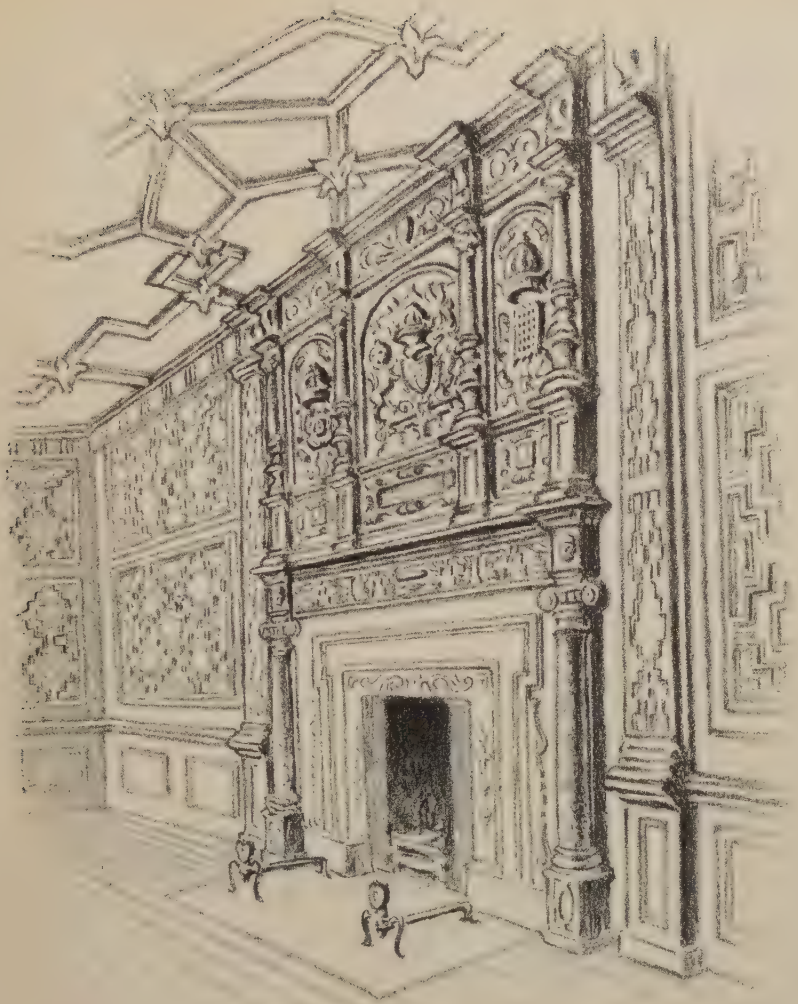
## ENFIELD

"Alas! how many hours and years have passed,
Since ancient dames within this parlour sate,
Or torch or taper, on its panels gleamed.
Methinks I see the forms of faces dreamed,
And hear soft voices murmuring through the void."

Old Play.

THOMAS OF WOODSTOCK, son of King Edward III, appears to be the first prince in any way connected with the manor of Enfield. Alinore, daughter and heiress of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, became the wife of Thomas of Woodstock. This lady inherited the manor from her grandfather. Her husband, it is supposed, was murdered at Calais through the direction of his nephew, Richard II. On the death of Alinore (the Duchess of Gloucester in Shakespeare's "Richard II") in 1399 the manor of Enfield passed to her sister Mary, wife of Henry of Lancaster (Shakespeare's Bolingbroke), after which it was vested in the Crown and annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster. Richard III granted the manor to the Duke of Buckingham in 1483, but it reverted to the Crown on the Duke's attainder in the following year. It remains parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster to-day.

The manor was leased to Lady Winkfield in the sixteenth century, but again reverted to the Crown in the reign of King Henry VIII, whose son was educated for a time at one of the houses of the manor. The old castle had by this time fallen into decay, and the royal children lived at Elsynge Hall, otherwise known as Enfield House. On New Year's Day, 1543, the Scottish nobles who had been made prisoners at Solway Moss



ENFIELD.

were taken, on their journey back to Scotland, to visit Prince Edward at Enfield. "They dined there that day, greatly rejoicing, as by their words and countenance it seemed, to behold so proper and towardly an Ympe," says Holinshed in his Chronicles.

The Princess Elizabeth was residing at Enfield at her father's death; and Prince Edward, then at Hertford Castle, was at once brought by his uncle, the Earl of Hertford, and Sir Anthony Brown to Elsynge Hall, and there, in the presence of his half-sister, first informed of the death of his father and of his own accession to the throne. Edward remained here for a few days to allow his uncle, who had determined to assume the Protectorate, time to make arrangements and secure the assent of those immediately about the young King's person to his regency. It was in the garden at Enfield that negotiations proceeded.

"After commoning in discourse of the state, those concerned gave their frank consent to the proposal." One of them, William Wightman by name, subsequently wrote to Secretary Cecil: "Myne old master, the master of th'orses, albeit, as is commonly known, he did much dissent from the proceedings in matter of religion, yet was I long sins by himself right well assured that he, commoning with my Lordes Grace in the garden of Enfielde, at the King's Majestie's cooming, gave his frank consent, after communication in discourse of the state, that His Grace should be Protector, thinking it (as indeed it was) both the surest kynde of government, and most fyt for his commonwelth."

Another courtier, one Paget, wrote to the Protector: "Remember what you promised me before the breath was out of the body of the king that dead is. Remember what you promised me immediately after devising with me concerning the place which you now occupy, I trust in the end to good purpose, however things thwart now."

In 1552 Edward settled the manor of Enfield on Princess Elizabeth for her life, and probably at the same time rebuilt the manor-house.

The early death of the young King allowed Elizabeth brief space for the enjoyment of her new abode, but in April, 1557, after being in captivity at Hatfield, she was brought to Enfield Chase by her kindly keeper, Sir Thomas Pope, with a " retinue of twelve ladies in white satin, on ambling palfries, and twenty yeomen in green on horseback, that her grace might hunt the hart. On entering the Chase she was met by 50 archers in scarlet boots and yellow caps, armed with gilded bows, one of whom presented her with a silver headed arrow, winged with peacock's feathers."

Elizabeth, as Queen, returned on several occasions to the home of her youth, her last visit being in 1596, of which her cousin Carey, Earl of Monmouth, writes : " The Queen came from Theobalds to Enfield House to dinner, and she had toils set up in the park to shoot at the buck after dinner."

The reversion of the house and demesne lands was granted by Charles I in fee to trustees of the City of London, but has since been in private hands.

Enfield Palace, as the house built by Edward VI for his half-sister, Elizabeth, has long been named, was situated in Enfield High Street, nearly opposite the church ; the greater part of it was demolished in the seventeenth century. In 1608 a warrant was issued for paying the expenses of taking down " the King's House," the materials of which were to be conveyed to Theobalds, there to be used in the intended buildings in course of erection. Portions of the building, including some beautifully panelled rooms, remained intact until the present century, but these were ruthlessly destroyed by sanction of the local authorities. Fortunately, a local resident purchased a couple of finely wainscoted apartments and re-erected them in his own house.

# CHAPTER XII

## HAMPTON COURT PALACE AND BUSHEY PARK

" Let any wight (if such a wight there be),
To whom thy lofty towers unknown remain,
Direct his steps, fair Hampton Court, to thee,
And view thy splendid halls : then turn again
To visit each proud dome by science praised,
' For kings the rest ' (he'd say), ' but thou for gods wert raised.' "

J. P. ANDREWS, after GROTIUS.

THE accounts of royal residences given in previous chapters of this volume have almost invariably been concerned with places with a tradition of royal occupation extending back to mediæval, Norman, or Saxon times ; at once embracing historical facts, poets' stories, and romantic legends of the English Sovereigns and their dependents. The present chapter deals with circumstances relating only to such periods of history as are well authenticated by documentary evidence. The actual facts are in this chapter supplemented by a few ghost stories inseparable from the place, together with a little gossip, repeated for what it is worth.

Hampton Court, eagerly visited by foreign travellers from earliest times, is known to-day to every member of society who has, at one time or another, had the good fortune to visit the Metropolis and its surroundings. Before the sights of London are exhausted the journey to Hampton Court has usually been an accomplished fact.

The familiarity with which the buildings and grounds of the palace are greeted surpasses that for every other place of public enjoyment. Its well-advertised charms are unrivalled throughout Great Britain. The story of Hampton Court

Palace has been repeated by most writers upon the English Renaissance; its architecture, its gardens, and the lives of persons of celebrity connected with the place, from the reign of the first Tudor monarch until the present day, have been a favourite subject with generations of British writers. A vast accumulation of facts bearing upon the history of the palace has been brought together and kept up to date from time to time by the official historian who has, for many years, not only taken an interest in the preservation of the fabric itself, but has made a life study of every detail appertaining to the subject. Mr. Ernest Law's volumes contain more information than any previous publications on Hampton Court, and all persons interested in its detailed history should consult his monumental work. For obvious reasons, it would be presumptuous to attempt further repetition of the fascinating story of the palace. Some of its less familiar corners, with illustrations of portions of the buildings recently opened up for public inspection, may perhaps be referred to without offence; no one revisiting this great pile can turn away without having discovered some hitherto unknown point of view worthy of study and remembrance.

In the early part of the thirteenth century the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem had a preceptory at the place afterwards selected as the site of Wolsey's palace, but before the Cardinal obtained possession Hampton Court was visited by Queen Elizabeth of York, who came over from Richmond Palace to make a retreat and pray for a happy delivery, just a month before she died in child-bed. Ten years later, King Henry VIII and Queen Katharine of Aragon visited Hampton Court while in residence at Richmond, and here inspected some horses of the Mantuan breed, which Francisco Gonzaga had sent to the King as a present—which circumstance recalls the fact that the famous "cream ponies" of Victorian and Edwardian days were stabled at the same place and might

often have been observed grazing in the enclosures near the Home Park.

On Midsummer Day, 1514, the manor of Hampton Court was leased to "the most Rev. Father in God, Thomas Wolsey, Archbishop of York," after experts from Italy and elsewhere had pronounced the locality to be one of "extraordinary salubrity."

The palace, with its 1000 rooms, erected by the Cardinal, soon supplanted the old court; the only relics of the Knights Hospitallers remaining to-day is the bell hanging above the clock tower, and some stone foundations in the "dungeon."

During the following ten years Wolsey entertained his Sovereign and foreign ambassadors at his great palace on a scale never before attempted even by the King himself. On one such occasion, the Venetian Ambassador, Giustiniani, described the scene, and he observes that "the king, at the age of 25, is the handsomest and most accomplished prince ever seen, able to speak French, Latin, and a little Italian, he plays well on the lute and harpsichord, and sings from a book at sight; he jousts, rides, and dances as well as any of his subjects."

The Ambassador might have added that Henry was also a composer of merit, for there is preserved some music of a very high order attributed to him, notably a couple of charming songs quoted in another chapter.

It must be remembered that at this period England was leading Continental Europe not only with regard to instrumental and vocal compositions, but also to their respective interpretation.

It is said that the splendour of Wolsey's hospitality was his undoing and that it created a jealous feeling in the breast of his fickle master. Doubtless while an envious fit was on him the King pointedly inquired why the Cardinal had built himself so sumptuous a palace, a question which wrung from a bleeding

heart the diplomatic reply, "To show how noble a house a subject may offer to his lord."

In June, 1525, the Flemish envoy in London wrote to the Regent of the Netherlands, saying that the great divine who aspired to the wearing of the Triple Crown has presented "Hanten Court," with all its priceless belongings, to the King, adding, "It seems to me that this is as good as if he had said, 'I give you a little pig of your own breeding at your own great cost.'"

Wolsey was soon bundled off to Esher Place, near at hand, "very sore sicke, and most likely to die." This fact is little to be wondered at, for he was not only deprived of his home, but was also stripped of his dignities and banished from the presence of his Sovereign, whom he had served so laboriously. The contemporary poet Skelton, always ready to poke fun at others, aptly wrote:

"Why come ye not to Courte?
To whyche Courte?
To the Kynges Courte;
Or to Hampton Courte."

A less sarcastic, but equally appropriate rhyme might be quoted from an old play called "Basil, a Tragedy." It runs as follows:

"And yet he thinks,—ha, ha, ha, ha,—he thinks
I am the tool and servant of his will.
Well, let it be; through all the maze of trouble
His plots and base oppression must create,
I'll shape myself a way to higher things,
And who will say 'Tis wrong'?"

Insult was added to injury, for the King, seeming to relent and to feel some remorse for his ungrateful treatment of one whose only fault had been to serve him too well, sent poor

Wolsey a ring as token of goodwill, and induced Anne Boleyn to detach a tablet from her girdle, to accompany the ring " with very gentle and comfortable words."

Henry's remorse was soon forgotten, for he immediately gave orders for the enlarging, improving and further embellishing the Cardinal's palace.

A new gallery, a library, and study, with a suite of other rooms, were quickly added to the buildings ; a " close bowling alley," a " close tennis play " next the east front. Not content with Wolsey's domestic quarters, fresh kitchens and " offices appurtaining to the same " were devised, before the original builder of the palace had passed away. (These are the subject of one of the illustrations.)

Like other usurpers, Henry affixed his badges in every conspicuous position throughout the palace, and also those of his Queens, who followed so rapidly one after another that their initials were painted out when scarcely dry and replaced by the next in succession, if time permitted before it was too late to do so. Many particulars quoted here from Mr. Law's works and Miss Julia Cartwright's volume were copied by those authors from the original manuscript bills preserved in the Record Office, where over ten thousand pages concerning Hampton Court are open to inspection.

Before the divorce of Katharine, a suite of rooms was already superbly furnished for her rival at the palace, and a retinue of attendants appointed to wait on the King's " awne darling."

Before the completion of this set of apartments designed for the King's " entirely beloved sweetheart," Anne had not only become Queen but had suffered decapitation. On the day following this tragic event, Anne's former maid of honour succeeded as Queen, and it was Jane Seymour who enjoyed to the full the rooms first planned in Katharine's day.

It is to be feared that this suite, together with a long gallery, disappeared when Sir Christopher Wren undertook the task of

transforming the picturesque irregularities of the Tudor palace into a square Renaissance building.

Henry not only built a new kitchen and a fish kitchen, but also added chawndry, pastry, confectionery, squillery, sellery, spicery, poultry, accatry, washing house, scalding house, pitcher house, feather house, hot house, jewel house, pay house, almonry, etc., etc.

Although it is now impossible to identify most of these quarters, the position of the great kitchens of Wolsey and Henry can easily be identified. One of them remains in its original state. It is 40 feet by 28, and as high as it is long; its lofty mullioned windows, its great arched fire-places, where many an ox has been roasted whole, and its hatches or dressers, on which the dishes were placed, abutting on the serving place, are all intact after four hundred years wear and tear.

Henry demolished or transformed Wolsey's hall; the "King's New Hall," grander in every way, took its place without delay. In the opinion of the writer Henry was far too wise a man to destroy Wolsey's banqueting hall, naturally the largest apartment of his palace. If one studies the general plan of almost any contemporary house of distinction, it will be observed that the "Great Watching Chamber" at Hampton Court is in the position where the great hall should stand. Some remains of the "entry" are in position, although the "screens" have disappeared. The approach from Wolsey's kitchen is convenient, Wolsey's state and private apartments were in the usual relationship to this hall, and, finally, the great oriel window—which could have no other purpose than to light the dais and high table—remains in all its original magnificence. Not only is this great room, with the exception of its altered ceiling, in its original condition, but the tapestries upon its walls also belonged to the Cardinal.

Henry's impatience was such that in the contemporary accounts there is an entry for "Emptions of tallow candles

THE ROUND KITCHEN COURT,
HAMPTON COURT.

spent by the workmen in the night times upon the paving of the Hall, for the hasty expedition of the same."

Of the palace at this period the poet Camden writes :

"A place which nature's choicest gifts adorn,
Where Thames' kind streams in gentle current turn,
The name of Hampton hath for ages borne ;
Here such a palace shows great Henry's care,
As Sol ne'er views in his exalted sphere."

As completed by Henry the vast mass of Hampton Court achieved its greatest splendour, and considering the accommodation, it is amazing to think that two other gorgeous palaces were by this King erected within the enclosure of the deer forest beyond the river ; one at Oatlands, connected by a direct road with Hampton Court, and the other at Worcester Park, well named "Nonsuch," but unfinished at the time of Henry's death.

The tapestries upon the walls of the palace were celebrated by the poet Spenser thus :

"For round about the walls yclothed were
With goodly arras of great majesty,
Woven with gold and silke so close and nere,
That the rich metal lurked privily,
As feigning to be hidd from envious eye ;
Yet here, and there, and everywhere, unwares
It shewed itselfe and shone unwillingly ;
Like a discoloured snake, whose hidden snares
Through the green grass his long bright-burnished back declares."

A few years ago, when these same wall hangings were being cleaned by experts from the Gobelin establishment, the writer was invited into one of the small courts of the palace, where, to his astonishment, he saw the fire hose being played upon the actual tapestries described by Spenser. Once again,

the gold and silver thread sparkled in the sunlight while many large patches were revealed on the underside of the panels.

Until 1770, when the great hall was restored, there remained a large open fire-place in the centre of the floor, the roof above was pierced by a lantern, which added picturesqueness to the external sky-line.

The hall was used for the performance of plays from the time of its construction (when " Henry VIII or the Fall of Wolsey " was given, probably with William Shakespeare in the caste), until the eighteenth century. " Henry VIII " was acted before George I, who expressed himself as being so much pleased that Sir Richard Steele remarked that the play was liked " so terribly well, that I was afraid I should have lost all my actors ; for I was not sure the king would not keep them to fill the posts about the Court, for he saw them so fit for the play."

The setting for these scenes was well described by Skelton when he exclaimed :

" With turrets and towers,
With halls and with bowers,
Stretching to the stars
With glass window and bars ;
Hanging about the walls
Clothes of gold and palls
Arras of rich array
Fresh as flowers of May."

The birth of Jane Seymour's son, Edward, took place in the Queen's Lodgings, the baptism being celebrated with the greatest pomp in the chapel newly furnished and decorated with stained-glass windows, stalls and an organ ; the roof newly painted in " gilt with fine gold and fine bice, set out with other fine collars." This latter is the only part of the chapel in its pristine state ; the remainder having been modernized in the reigns of King William III and Queen Anne. Upon the upper

floor at the west end of the chapel it is said that Queen Jane, clothed in white, wanders from time to time, and, with a lighted taper in her hand, paces the Silver Stick Gallery and adjoining staircase.

There is another Hampton Court ghost, the account of whose appearance is more definite and circumstantial than is usually forthcoming in such cases. The ghost in question is that of Mistress Sibell Penn who, in 1538, a year after Jane Seymour's death, became Prince Edward's dry-nurse and foster-mother. Her duties in this capacity, says Mr. Law, were discharged with such care, fidelity, and loyal affection, that she won the gratitude and esteem of Henry, as well as the fond regard of her foster-son. When he became King she continued to live at the palace, and after he died was treated with kindness by Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. Dying at the palace, she was buried in Hampton Church, and a fine monument was raised over her tomb. When her body was shifted, about a hundred years ago, strange noises, as of a woman working a spinning wheel, and muttering the while, were heard through the wall in one of the rooms in the south-west wing of the palace. Search was made by the Board of Works, when an ancient, and till then unknown, chamber was discovered, in which an antique spinning wheel and a few other articles were found, the old oak planks were seen to be worn away where the treadle struck the floor. No further manifestations were noticed, however, until the present century, when the phenomena were renewed and, it is affirmed, have since become increasingly frequent and startling. Mrs. Penn's tall, gaunt form, dressed in a long grey robe, with a hood over her head and her lanky hands outstretched before her, has been seen in the haunted chamber, the account of the apparition being rendered the more impressive from the fact the witness of it was a recent arrival at the palace and ignorant of the legend. When, afterwards, attention was drawn to Mrs. Penn's monument (the existence of which was at that time

unknown to anyone in the palace) and it was found that the description of the ghost exactly corresponded with the appearance of the effigy, the coincidence became startling enough to shake the judgment of the most sceptical.

The mysterious " Haunted Gallery " of the palace runs over that leading to the chapel, and its name is derived from the appearance there of Henry's fifth queen. After her downfall, Katharine Howard was confined to her chamber and from it she escaped and fled along this gallery to seek an interview with her husband, who was hearing Mass in the royal closet of the chapel. Just as she reached the door, the guards seized her and carried her back; while the King, in spite of her piercing screams, which were heard almost all over the palace, continued his devotions unmoved.

In this gallery, it is said, Katharine, dressed in white, has been seen coming towards the door of the royal pew, and, just as she reaches it, has been observed to hurry back with disordered garments and on her face a ghastly look of despair, uttering at the same time the most unearthly shrieks, till she passes through the door at the end of the gallery.

The famous astronomical clock in the clock tower was inserted while Katharine Howard spent her honeymoon at the palace.

Henry annexed an extensive tract of country, including " a New Forest " to be called Hampton Court Chase, and laid out for the " nourishment, generation and feeding beasts of venery and fowls of warren." Walton, Esher and Shepperton were included. At Cobham the King's " Tilt " survives to-day and a straight race-course can be followed for about a mile, terminating on Leigh Hill, at the side of which a small farm-house stands, almost as it stood one hundred years before Henry VIII held his sports in front of it. Another, and larger, house of the fifteenth century faces in the same direction, a short distance away. This house was probably annexed by the King together

HAUNTED GALLERY, HAMPTON COURT.

with other property belonging to the Abbot of Chertsey. It is not an unreasonable conjecture that, after a long day's hunt, or a tilting match, Henry repaired with his friends and huntsmen to this H-shaped house where rest and refreshment could be indulged in under the open oak-timbered roof of its hall.

The society loving monarch objected to the foreign custom of dining in private, and insisted that all his company should continue to take their meals with their host "in hall." After generations of disuse and neglect this galleried hall at Cobham has been restored to its original purpose, that of dining and recreation. Once again its rafters echo with the music of the virginal and harpsichord, the recorder and the hurdy-gurdy. It is now the property of the writer, by whom the hall was reinstated after generations of neglect.

But to return to the immediate surroundings of Hampton Court, Henry's gardens to the south and east of the palace were pleasant, being curiously arranged in the manner suggested by Bacon's essay; strictly formal in character. These enclosed spaces may be traced in the present sunk garden and its surroundings which were once embellished with heraldic beasts and shields of arms, all gaily painted. Fountains sparkled against the clipped hedges, and arbours led by devious ways to pavilions and banqueting houses.

There is little in the way of new buildings to record during the two following reigns; the expected addition to the Royal Family at Hampton Court, that of a son born to the Tudor Queen Mary—for which event great preparations were made—never took place. So confident was the Court of the happy event having actually occurred that letters announcing the birth were despatched. Cardinal Pole was informed "that God had been pleased, amongst his other benefits, to add the gladding of us with the happy delivery of a Prince." Unfortunately there was no truth in this written statement, nor was any

use made of the "cradle veri sumptuouslie and gorgeouslie trimmed," in spite of the verses inscribed upon it :

"The child which Thou to Marie,
O Lord of might hast send,
To England's joie in health
Preserve, keepe and defend."

Presents were showered upon the new-born heir to the throne, who was described as being "as beautiful and great a prince as the like had not been seen." The Queen of Hungary sent 100 crowns for the English sailors to drink a health to the royal child. After all this bluff and the narrow escape from the scaffold which Princess Elizabeth experienced at Hampton Court, it is not surprising that, when danger was past and a crown firmly placed upon her head, Queen Elizabeth returned to the palace exclaiming, "It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

The "ugly, small, lean, eyebrowless" Queen Mary had closed the doors of the palace to her people, only to be opened again by her half-sister amidst the acclamations of her greatly relieved subjects.

The few additions made by Elizabeth include the fine range of stables facing Hampton Green, a suite of apartments now almost obliterated by Wren's south front of the palace, and a fountain in the clock court, now removed. The initials E.R. carved in stone and moulded in lead may be observed to-day at several points on the exterior walls.

So complete in accommodation, decoration and furnishing was the palace as left by their extravagant father that little addition was necessary to the buildings during the lifetime of his children, who in turn ruled England. It was a question of retrenchment rather than amplification. The great enclosures but recently effected in Surrey were once more opened up and their fences thrown down, in response to the

prayers of the people. One Roderyck Mors, speaking for the countryfolk, complained that "the enclosing of parks, forests and chases is no small burden to the commons. How the corn and grass is destroyed by the deer many times, it is pitiful to hear."

The entertainments given by Queen Elizabeth at the palace were almost identical with those described as having taken place at one or other of the royal houses. Plays with a hitherto unknown elaboration of setting were given; of these performances many details are to be found in the "Accounts of the Revels of the Court." In the great hall a stage of strong scaffolding was erected against the screens, "having also apt houses made of canvas, framed and painted accordingly as might serve their several purposes." The great Watching Chamber was set apart for rehearsals. There was also a quantity of costumes kept for the actors' use, while dressers and other attendants were placed in charge of the "airing, repairing, amending, brushing, spunging, rubbing, wiping, sweeping, cleaning, putting in order, folding, laying up and safe bestowing of the garments, vestures, apparel, disguisings, properties and furniture, which else would be mouldy, musty, moth-eaten and rotten."

Then there were tailors, haberdashers, buskin-makers, and silk-weavers for making wings, hair, snowballs, visors, wands, counterfeit fruit, fish and flowers, showing the scrupulous attention given to theatrical detail.

Wires, stretched across the open roof of the hall, strung with oil lamps, provided "top light," and candles in silver sconces gleamed from the "wings."

Personal relics, in the form of musical instruments, probably played upon at Hampton Court by Queen Elizabeth, may be inspected at South Kensington Museum. One glass virginal here seen may be, in spite of its label, the actual instrument referred to by the Queen of Scots' agent Melville during his visit at the palace. He was taken to one of the quiet galleries by

Lord Hunsden to hear some music, where, he hoped, they might listen to the queen play upon the virginal. "After I had hearkened awhile," says Melville, "I took stand by the tapestry that hung before the door, and seeing her back was towards the door, I entered within the chamber, and stood a pretty space, hearing her play excellently well; but she left off immediately, so soon as she turned her about and saw me. She appeared to be surprised to see me, and came forward, seeming to strike me with her hand, alleging that she would not play before men but when she was solitary to shun melancholy." Paul Hentzner in 1599 mentions having seen at Hampton Court a virginal "made all of glass excepting the strings."

Many travellers have described the splendours of the palace from the days of Wolsey onwards. A recent discovery has brought to light yet another traveller's story written in 1585, with specia. reference to Elizabeth. Herr von Wedel wrote as follows:

"We walked a mile between 2 walls which surround 2 gardens and came to 'Hampenkort' where the Queen (Elizabeth) was. It being Sunday she attended Divine Service in the chapel which is in the castle. This chapel is rather beautifully ornamented. It has a fine organ mainly of gilt silver with large and small silver pipes. Before the Queen marched her bodyguard. They are all tall, strong, picked men. They bore gilt halberds and wore red coats trimmed with black velvet. Then came the most distinguished lords and councillors. Two of them bore a royal sceptre each. Then came one bearing the royal sword in a red velvet scabbard embroidered with gold and studded with precious stones and pearls. Then followed the Queen in black, because she is in mourning for the Prince of Orange and the Duke d'Alençon. On either side of her crisp hair hung a great pearl the size of a hazel-nut. The common people who formed 2 rows on either side her path, fell upon their knees. The Queen's demeanour, however, was gracious

THE KITCHEN CHIMNEYS, HAMPTON COURT PALACE.

and gentle and so was her speech, and from rich and poor she took petitions in a modest manner. Behind her walked a countess bearing her train. Then followed 22 maids of honour, mostly the children of Earls and other Lords. These were followed by 24 noblemen who bore small gilt pikes tipped with iron and adorned with long plumes. It being late in the day there was no sermon, but only singing and prayers. After wards the Queen returned to her apartments. When the people fell on their knees, she said 'I thank you with all my heart.'"

The following incident occurred while the Court was at this place. Henry Carey, the queen's cousin, after having enjoyed Elizabeth's favour for many years, forfeited it during an evening stroll, thus:

"As he was walking at dusk, lost in thought, in the palace garden, under the queen's window, the latter perceived him, and asked him in a joking way what he was thinking about, and added, 'What does a man think of when he is thinking of *nothing*?' 'Of a woman's promise,' answered Carey. 'Well done, cousin,' said Elizabeth. Some time afterwards, Carey solicited the honour of a peerage, and reminded Elizabeth that she had promised it to him. 'True,' said she, 'but you will remember, cousin, that it was only a woman's promise!' Seeing that Carey looked disappointed, the queen added, 'Well, Sir Henry, I must not confute you; anger makes dull men witty, but it keeps them poor.'"

Among the stories connected with Hampton Court at this period is one fit to be remembered by all. The joyful tidings of the defeat of the Spanish Armada arrived on Michaelmas Day, and was communicated to Queen Elizabeth whilst at dinner at Hampton Court, partaking of a goose. Hence the origin of eating that savoury dish at Michaelmas.

The drama continued to be patronized at the palace after King James came to the English throne; the revels were assuming, under the skilful direction of Ben Jonson, more

definite shape, developing from the mere mummings and masquerades into dramatic representations of a high lyrical order which found their noblest embodiment in Milton's "Comus." The newly enrolled "King's Players" performed such plays as "Gamma Girton's Needle" and other boisterous farces.

During some revels it is said that the young Prince Henry, a boy of eleven, was tossed from hand to hand like a tennis ball, and that the subsequent banquet was "despatched with the wonted confusion." It is not surprising therefore that after the feast there were "brabbles amongst the Ambassadors."

It was at this period that stage effects of elaborate architectural design were introduced by Inigo Jones, both for indoor and outdoor entertainments. Fireworks were made use of to illuminate temples and fountain displays. Among the comedians engaged for royal entertainment was William Shakespeare, whose name appears second on the list of the King's Company.

"The Wonder of the World," as James is styled in the dedication of the Bible, left no great mark upon Hampton Court, although he appointed Inigo Jones as his surveyor. Some improvements were made in the palace gardens during the following reign. Statuary had become the fashion, both of classical and Renaissance design, and there are many figures of stone and vases of lead scattered over the lawns to-day, eloquent of the decorative effect obtained by well-placed pieces of sculpture in harmony with the architecture of the neighbouring buildings.

Charles I spent some of his happiest days at Hampton Court, where his great collection of works of art was housed, but joy eventually gave place to sorrow through the sad experiences encountered towards the end of his reign within the walls of the palace. When the King was in residence with his family, the following incident is said to have occurred.

One day, whilst His Majesty was standing at a window,

surrounded by his children, a gipsy or beggar-woman came up to it and asked for charity. Her appearance excited ridicule and probably threats, which so enraged the woman that she took out of her basket a mirror and presented it to the King; he saw in it his own head decollated. She then said that the death of a dog in the room the King was then in would precede the restoration to his family of the kingdom which Charles was about to lose. It is related that Oliver Cromwell, knowing the prophecy, afterwards slept in the room referred to. He was constantly attended by a faithful dog. On awaking one morning he found the dog dead, and in horror he exclaimed, in allusion to the gipsy's prophecy, "The kingdom is departed from me!" The Protector died soon afterwards.

After King Charles's tragic end the manor was sold, together with the palace and its priceless contents, but, fortunately, a subsequent order was given "that the house called Hampton Court, with the outhouses and gardens thereunto belonging, and the little park wherein it stands be stayed from sale, until the Parliament take further order."

Sir Harry Vane was for pulling down the entire palace, as was done in similar cases, for "it was amongst those things that prove Temptations to Ambitious Men, and exceedingly tend to sharpen their Appetite to ascend the Throne." However, many of the treasures from the palace were sold, including one of Queen Elizabeth's virginal, which fetched ten pounds.

Perhaps the most worthy act recorded of Oliver Cromwell, although quite unintentional on his part, was the saving of this one royal residence from utter destruction. Not for the sake of the national importance in connection with its previous ownership was this done. It was solely as a residence for himself that the Protector prevented the destruction of Hampton Court Palace and the sale of the fabric as building material.

At the marriage of his daughter, Elizabeth, which took place here, an incident bearing on Cromwell's sense of humour occurred

before the wedding breakfast was begun. The great man poured spoonfuls of sticky jam on all the seats on which his guests were afterwards invited to sit, and it is said that every one present, knowing their host, pretended to enjoy the joke of having their wedding garments ruined in consequence.

Mr. Secretary Thurloe, in his contemporary diary, records certain facts concerning Cromwell's private life at Hampton Court. He writes :

" Sometimes, as the fit takes him, to divert his melancholy, he dines with the officers and shows a hundred antic tricks, as throwing cushions at them, and putting hot coals into their pockets and boots ! At others, before he has half dined, he gives orders for the beating of a drum to call in his foot guards, like a kennel of hounds, to snatch off the meat from his table and tear it in pieces, with many other unaccountable whimsies ; immediately after this, fear and astonishment sit in his countenance, and not a nobleman approaches him but he fells him ! At night he shifts from bed to bed for fear of surprise."

Some interesting sidelights on the character of Cromwell have recently been discovered by Signor E. Momigiano in the letters of Francesco Bernardi, whose name has never appeared until now, but who acted as chargé d'affaires of the Genoese in England from 1651 to 1665, and corresponded with the rulers of the Republic concerning events during the Commonwealth.

Professing to be a personal friend of the Protector, this observant Italian warned his Catholic masters of Cromwell's ambition to become the protector of the reformed religion throughout the world. " Unfortunately, I know this to be true," he says, and offers comfort to his compatriots by exclaiming that " Cromwell is hated by the people." Bernardi affirms that " he pursues his design with high policy and unimaginable skill, not only to be made King but Emperor and one may be sure that he will succeed with the ruin of those who oppose him."

There is a strange story told of Cromwell's last illness, when a political opponent was called in to give medical advice. Dr. Mollins cured his new patient, but when it came to parting, he said, "Wait a moment, I have not yet finished, because you will be ill again if you do not give me leave to treat you as you have treated the whole of England—that is, to upset and turn you over in your bed three times." After undergoing the ordeal, Cromwell said, "Ask what you want, and you shall have it." The doctor replied, "The only thing I want is something to drink." He was taken to the cellars, probably the well-filled wine cellars at Hampton Court, where he drank deeply with a toast to King Charles Stuart. The servants reported this to their master, who exclaimed, "Let him alone. He is mad, but he has done me good and I do not want to harm him," and sent him a thousand pounds, begging him to accept it in the name of King Charles.

For the amusement of his leisure hours the Protector is said to have had the organ removed from Magdalen College, Oxford, and re-erected in the great gallery of the palace.

Charles II, soon after his marriage, brought his Queen to Hampton Court. John Evelyn came here to see the new Queen. "I saw her at supper privately in her bed-chamber," he observes, adding that "her bed was an embroidery of silver and crimson velvet, and cost £8000, being a present made by the States of Holland when his Majesty returned and had formerly been given to them by the king's sister, the Princess of Orange. The queen brought over from Portugal such Indian cabinets as had never before been seen in England." Evelyn was of the opinion that "all the gardens might be exceedingly improved, as being too narrow for such a place."

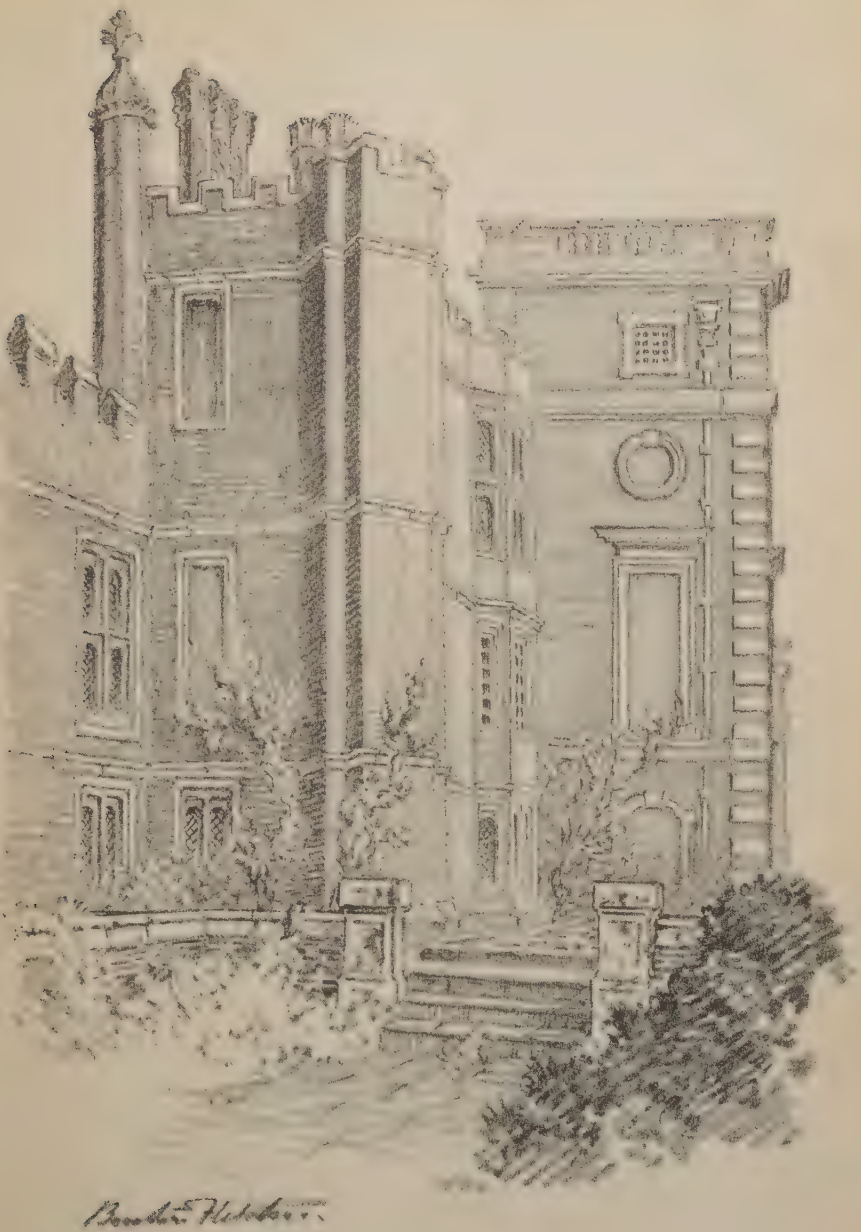
It was in the reign of William and Mary that the great and final transformation of the palace was effected. Sir Christopher Wren, who became surveyor, was commissioned to erect a new suite of state apartments more in accordance with the fashion

of the day than the existing "sombre" rooms of the Tudor period. Two courts were ruthlessly pulled down and a third remodelled. The new east and south fronts were placed so as to mask effectively the irregularities of earlier ones. Their symmetrical and straight-lined façades, constructed of redder brick and whiter stone, must have satisfied the eyes of Dutch William, while the interior arrangements provided a "visto," a fashion of the moment for obtaining a perspective from end to end of the palace. Many opinions, expressed in the most emphatic terms, could be quoted, both for and against Wren's work at Hampton Court, but it is wise not to enter here into any discussion upon the subject. Both the Tudor and the Renaissance portions, if taken separately, are perfect specimens of their kind.

The famous gardens to the south and east of the palace are of varied design, and include a small enclosure in the Tudor taste, and also wide expanses of lawn favoured by the Stuart and later Kings. The lay-out generally which is seen to-day was planned by Charles II's gardener, Rose, under the King's inspection; the great yews which spread fan-wise from the south front were originally planted as small pyramids growing close to the ground. The "long water" canal and avenues of lime trees date from the following reign, as do the oval fountain pond, the long terraces, the maze and the "Wilderness."

In William's reign the Royal Tennis Court, originally built by Henry VIII, was partially reconstructed and enlarged. There is certainly no other court of which it can be said that for four centuries down to the present time it has been in continuous use. Sebastian Giustiniani, an eye-witness, gives an account of a game of tennis played by Henry VIII.

"His Majesty is 29 years old and extremely handsome, nature could not have done more for him; he is much handsomer than any other sovereign in Christendom; very fair, and his whole frame admirably proportioned. On hearing that



QUEEN ELIZABETH'S BUILDING,
HAMPTON COURT.

Francis I wore a beard he allowed his to grow, and, as it is reddish, he has now got a beard which looks like gold. He is extremely fond of tennis, at which game it is the prettiest thing in the world to see him play, his fair skin glowing through a shirt of the finest texture." Henry, when not actually playing, is said to have worn an outer "tones-cote" of black or blue velvet as a protection against cold.

Having returned to the first monarch who made Hampton Court Palace his home, it may be advisable to quit the scene altogether. There is little to record, either of important additions to or further alterations in the fabric during subsequent reigns, to retain the reader's interest or attention. It is enough to know that since the Royal Family gave it up as a residence Hampton Court has never been seen to greater advantage than it appears to-day, in its noble setting of flowery ways and far-stretching lawns. The palace stands as a witness not only of its historic past, but also of associations connected with present-day happiness, as experienced by the thousands of men, women and children who are privileged to wander at will through the pictured State apartments, the tapestried halls and the domestic offices of the interior, and then pass out to the gay scene of those glorious surroundings the like of which is nowhere else to be found

## Bushey Park

Bushey Park, lying on the confines of Teddington and Hampton, forms a magnificent approach to Hampton Court Palace from the direction of London, through an avenue with nine rows of stately chestnut trees; it is intersected by other groves at the Diana Water, where a wide belt of chestnuts encircles the round pond. The avenues, planted by William III in Dutch fashion, are perhaps unequalled in extent and beauty throughout Europe.

In this park stands the house formerly occupied by William IV, who lived here for thirty-six years like a country gentleman, superintending his farm and entertaining his neighbours with hospitality. His Majesty, like a true sailor, had a part of the foremast of the "Victory" against which Nelson was standing when he received his fatal wound deposited in a small temple in the grounds.

# CHAPTER XIII

## DARTFORD PRIORY

"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private recordes and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of bookes, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."

BACON.

IN the sixth year of Henry VII the Princess Bridget, third daughter of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville, at the age of ten was sent to Dartford Priory.

This child was born at Eltham, where her baptism was celebrated with much ado. From infancy she had been destined to live the life of a nun and was, on the retirement of her mother to Bermondsey Abbey, entrusted to the care of the Reverend Mother at Dartford.

Bridget remained an inmate of the convent until the alarming illness of the Queen-Dowager induced her guardian to permit the young neophyte to visit her mother's death-bed. It is recorded that Elizabeth Woodville "expired in the arms of her daughters, all of whom were present at the mournful scene with exception of the queen, who was precluded by her approaching accouchement."

After attending her mother's funeral at Windsor, Bridget returned by water to Dartford, where, it is presumed, under the influence of high-wrought feeling, she took the veil. As the professed nun was the sister-in-law of the King and also the daughter of a monarch, it is affirmed this splendid sacrifice of royalty to religion was celebrated with all the imposing pomp of the Church, and attended by the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood.

The princess never attained higher rank than that of an ordinary nun. She seems, however, during her whole life to have been visited by her family. Sums of money were frequently paid "for the cost of riding from Windsore to Dartford to my Lady Brigget by the space of too day at twelve pence a day." Three pounds six shillings and eightpence was paid yearly to the prioress for her maintenance.

About the year 1517 the princess, after a life of contemplation, died at this convent and was buried within the priory church.

In 1537 the priory was converted into a farm and let by the prioress to a husbandman at a yearly rental of ten pounds, and the following year Joan Fane, the prioress, and twenty-three nuns surrendered their house and all its revenues into the hands of the King's commissioners and were pensioned off.

The situation of the several conventual buildings may be ascertained from the present remains, disfigured as they are by the alterations of ages and the encroaching factory buildings, one of which rears its corrugated iron walls but a few feet from the Tudor building. Alas, for the "Chapel of our Lady" and the lamp suspended before the statue of the Virgin in remembrance of John Joyner, who died in the fifteenth century! It is recorded "that in this church, lay buried the Lady Bridget, daughter of king Edward IV, also dame Joane, daughter to the lord Scrope of Bolton, and Margaret, daughter of Lord Beaumont, both prioresses of that place."

Henry VIII, immediately after the Dissolution, announced his intention of converting the priory into a residence for himself and his successors, and retained the land in the immediate vicinity in his own hands for that purpose; he nevertheless granted sundry portions of its endowments to farmers and others

It was determined upon the approaching marriage of Henry

DARTFORD PRIORY.

with Anne of Cleves that the bride-elect should rest one night at Rochester, and another at the King's house at Dartford, when upon her journey from Deal to London. For this purpose "Edmund Lloyd, yeoman of the wardrobe, and John Askewe groome of the same, and a smith that was with them were directed to set up too beds of the kingis, one at Dartford, and an oder at Rochester, and to make redy for the Queenes grace by the space of XXX days." The impetuous lover introduced himself "suddenly" into Anne's presence at Rochester. Henry was vastly astonished at the lady, her person so little corresponding with her portrait by Holbein.

She received him on her knees, and the King had, at least at this their first meeting, the gallantry, humanity or policy to conceal his disappointment and aversion. "He gently raised her," says Stowe, "kissed her, and all that afternoon communed and devysed with her, that night supped with her, and the next day he departed to Greenwich and she for Dartford."

On January 2nd Anne slept in the royal bed prepared for her at the priory, where her retinue also lodged, and on the morrow proceeded to Shooters Hill, where she was received by the King and a great array of noblemen, knights, gentlemen and citizens, and thence rode to Greenwich.

Dartford Priory was granted to Anne of Cleves by Edward VI. She immediately entered into possession and continued to occupy the house during her stepson's reign, and was living there in 1556, as appears from some memoranda in the Loosely MSS., where it is stated that she requested certain articles to be delivered "at her house at Dartford, for that, her grace at that time lacked money for the furniture of the same, and promised payment agayne of the same." However, the account was not settled until after her death.

On the death of Anne, Queen Mary granted the manor to the Friars Preachers of King's Langley, whose monastery she had lately re-established. In Elizabeth's reign the house was

again escheated to the Crown, and retained as a royal residence. In 1573 the Queen "slept at her own House at Dartford," according to Nichol's "Progress of Queen Elizabeth."

In the following reign, when the smaller Tudor mansions were considered to be out of date, Dartford Priory ceased to be a royal residence and was handed over to one of the adherents of the Stuart dynasty, like Cobham Hall, some few miles distant.

Dawkins's "History of Dartford," from which this account of the priory is mainly taken, contains much information concerning the religious house, but there is little to be found in it, or elsewhere, with regard to the crumbling but interesting remains of the Tudor mansion. Although but a small portion is now standing, enough exists to show the original appearance of some of the principal apartments. Half a dozen doorways remain with doors leading from the wide newel staircase. They are perfect specimens of solid oak construction, with deeply carved spandrils. Beyond these are some well-proportioned rooms, one wainscoted from ceiling to floor in oak, and another containing a finely carved fire-place. There is also a cupboard fashioned out of some decorated panelling of good design. The exterior walls are mostly of small red brick. Several windows and a couple of archways in the gate-house are of moulded brickwork in an excellent state of preservation.

Until 1928 the priory house was inhabited, but no sooner were the last tenants out than the place became a target for stone-throwing, and the surrounding garden a receptacle for old pots and pans. To-day the spectacle is most degrading, and the massive doorway in the garden wall, constructed out of four oak timbers and opening on to a street, is the plaything of children who delight in heaping old bricks against its warped and weatherbeaten frame. Huge buildings, with exhaust pipes belching blackness at its foundations, overtop the roofs of the house at the back, while in front there stands a garage for motor-coaches radiant in bright enamel.

# CHAPTER XIV

## HANWORTH MANOR

" To buy his favour I extend this friendship ;
If he will take it, so ; if not, adieu ;
And for my love, I pray you wrong me not."

SHAKESPEARE.

HANWORTH PARK was first mentioned at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and it is not known whether Henry VIII or Sir John Crosby, the builder of Crosby Hall, enclosed it as a game preserve. Camden calls it a park " where the king had the diversion at all times of the buck and hare."

Much care seems to have been bestowed upon the house and gardens during Tudor times.

The office of keeper of the park was granted by the King to Sir Richard Weston, and on the occasion of Princess Mary's residence at Hanworth, in 1522, she received a New Year's present of twelve pairs of shoes from her guardian.

The park and manor house were given to Anne Boleyn in July, 1532. A few years later they were settled for life on Katherine Parr, who continued to live there after the King's death, accompanied by her second husband. The Princess Elizabeth, whose education was entrusted to her stepmother, came to live at Hanworth when fifteen years of age, during the widowhood of the Queen, and remained there after Katherine married the ambitious Lord Seymour of Sudley, whose loose conduct towards the young princess—apparently encouraged, or at least connived at, by his wife—was scandalous enough to deserve being mentioned by contemporary historians.

If the " Burleigh Papers " are to be trusted, " on one

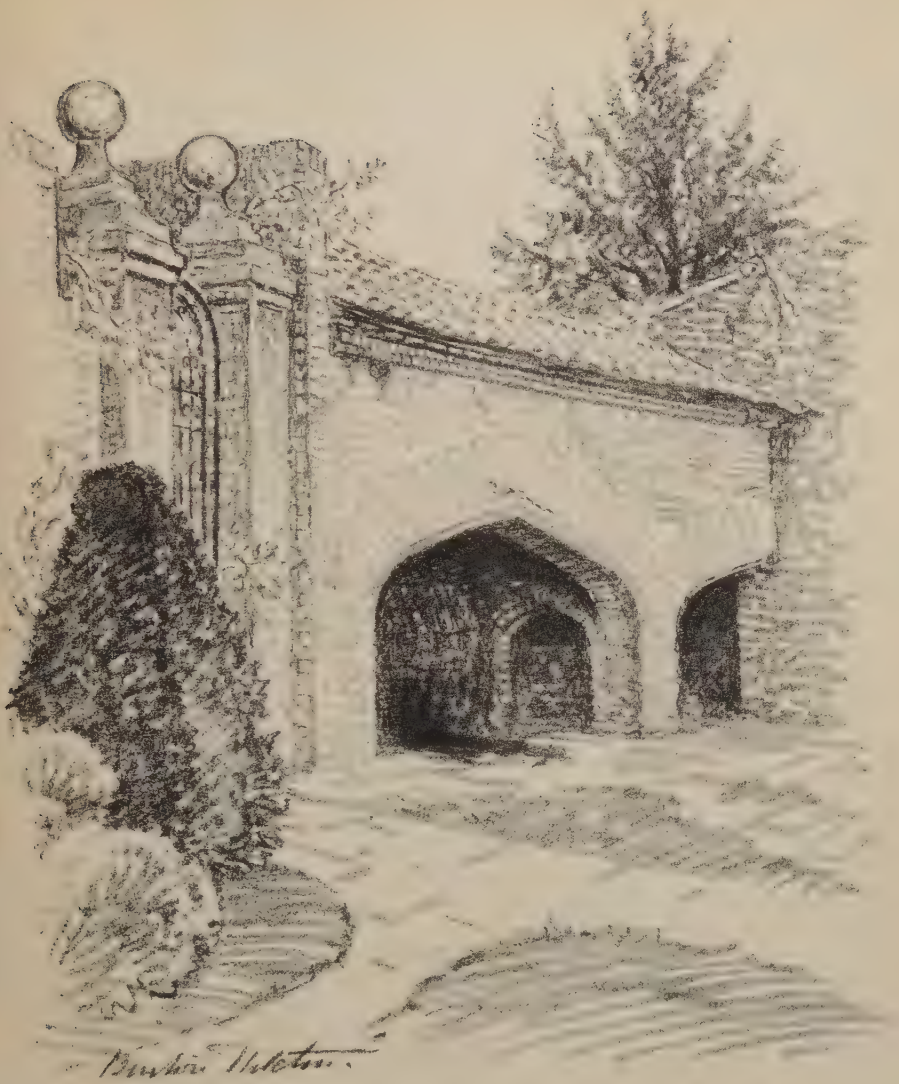
occasion the queen held the hands of the young princess whiles the Lord Admiral amused himself with cutting her gown into shreds; and on another she introduced him into the chamber of Elizabeth befor she had left her bed, when a violent romping scene took place (writes Lady Aikin), which was afterwards repeated in the presence of the queen." It is to be feared that the morals of Katherine did not fit her for the post of duenna to the future Queen of England. Happily Elizabeth's stay at Hanworth did not last long after this misbehaviour, for a heated scene took place between the royal stepmother and step-daughter, which ended, fortunately for the peace and honour of Elizabeth, in an immediate and final separation.

In 1600, when Elizabeth was an old woman, she returned for some hunting to the place where she and Seymour were the cause of the grave accusations already mentioned. Her thoughts no doubt reverted to the very youthful indiscretions which took place there, but times had changed even if the Queen, after the lapse of over fifty years, remained an amorous maiden.

Hanworth Manor subsequently was usually granted for life to a Court official.

In 1629 Lord Cottington appears to have possessed it and to have improved the property. He wrote at this time to Lord Strafford that "there begins to grow a brick wall all about the gardens at Hanworth, which though it be a large extent yet it will be too little for the multitude of pheasants, partridges and wild-fowl that are to be bred in it.

"Dainty walks," he adds, "are to be made abroad inasmuch as the old porter with the long beard is like to have a good revenue by admitting strangers that will come to see these varieties. It will be good entertainment to see the amazement of the barbarous northern folk who have scarce arrived to see a well cut hedge, when the fame of these varieties shall draw them hither."



HANWORTH.

His lordship speaks of his wife as "the principal contriver of all this machine, who with her clothes tucked up and a staff in her hand, marches from place to place like an Amazon commanding an army."

In 1635 Queen Henrietta Maria and all her Court were entertained at Hanworth with great splendour.

Lord Cottington, the tenant, weathered the stormy period which followed, although his house was on more than one occasion besieged by Cromwell's men "under colour of a pretended power to search for arms by virtue of a warrant surreptitiously gotten as the petitioners conceive and was directed to none there present."

Horace Walpole wrote in 1791 :

"The Duke of St. Albans has cut down all the brave old trees at Hanworth, and reduced the park to what it issued from—Hounslow Heath ; nay, he has hired a meadow next to mine for the benefit of embarkation, and there lie all the good old corpses of oaks, ashes, and chestnuts, blocking up my views !

"But so impetuous is the rage for building, that his Grace's timber will, I trust, not annoy us long."

It is curious to observe how history repeats itself. Hanworth Park having recently been converted into an aviation club, all the "good old corpses of oaks, ashes, and chestnuts" grown as park trees there since Walpole's day now lie prone upon the ground in front of the ruins of the royal house, no doubt to be carried off shortly during the present "rage for building" while the park once again reverts to a treeless waste.

The old manor-house, which withstood the armed attacks of Cromwell's men, remained intact for six years after Walpole's description of the park was penned. It was finally destroyed by fire, leaving but a couple of Tudor kitchen chimneys to mark the site. The encircling moat, surrounded

by a great, walled-in space, tells of the extent to which the gardens stretched during the zenith of Hanworth's prosperity. Ancient yews and a mulberry tree remain as sentinels. A five-step mounting stone and a carved royal coat of arms lie about the garden. High up, and built into a brick pediment, the smiling face of a terra-cotta bust looks down upon the general ruin. When pointing this out to the writer a gardener exclaimed, "They do say that that there head is a portrait of Annie Bowling."

In the Rectory of Hanworth some pieces of heraldic stained glass, including a royal coat of arms, have been inserted in a window, but there is little enough above ground to enable the visitor to visualize the former appearance of the great house long since departed. There is only left the sad, sweet smile of "Annie Bowling" to give animation to the scene of desolation. However, efforts are about to be made to give new life to Hanworth Manor on modern lines.

# CHAPTER XV

## ASHRIDGE

" A train of armed men, some noble Dame
Escorting, (so their scatter'd words discover'd
As unperceived I hung upon their rear,)
Are close at hand, and mean to pass the night
Within."

" Orra : A Tragedy."

THE College or Monastery of Ashridge was first established by Prince Edmund, whose tomb is at King's Langley, a few miles distant.

After the Dissolution, Ashridge, like many other religious houses, was taken over as a royal possession and occasionally granted to a supporter of the King's plans.

The manor of Little Gaddesden, including Ashridge, was bestowed upon his half-sister Elizabeth by Edward VI, who is said to have been nursed there when a baby. There is a letter in Latin from Elizabeth to Edward, dated Ashridge, the 20th of September, but without the date of the year ; in it she refers to the sickness then prevalent, and to the King's absence from London. There is also a letter, dated from the same place, to " her wel beloved sister."

In 1554, in fear of Mary's hatred, Elizabeth retired to her house at Ashridge ; in the meantime Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion broke out, in opposition to the Queen's match with Philip of Spain. It was immediately pretended that the Princess Elizabeth, together with Lord Courtney, was privately concerned in this dangerous conspiracy, and that she had held a correspondence with the traitor, Wyatt. Accordingly, Sir

Edward Hastings, Sir Thomas Cornwallis and Sir Richard Southwell, attended by a troop of horse, said to be 250 strong, were ordered to bring her to London.

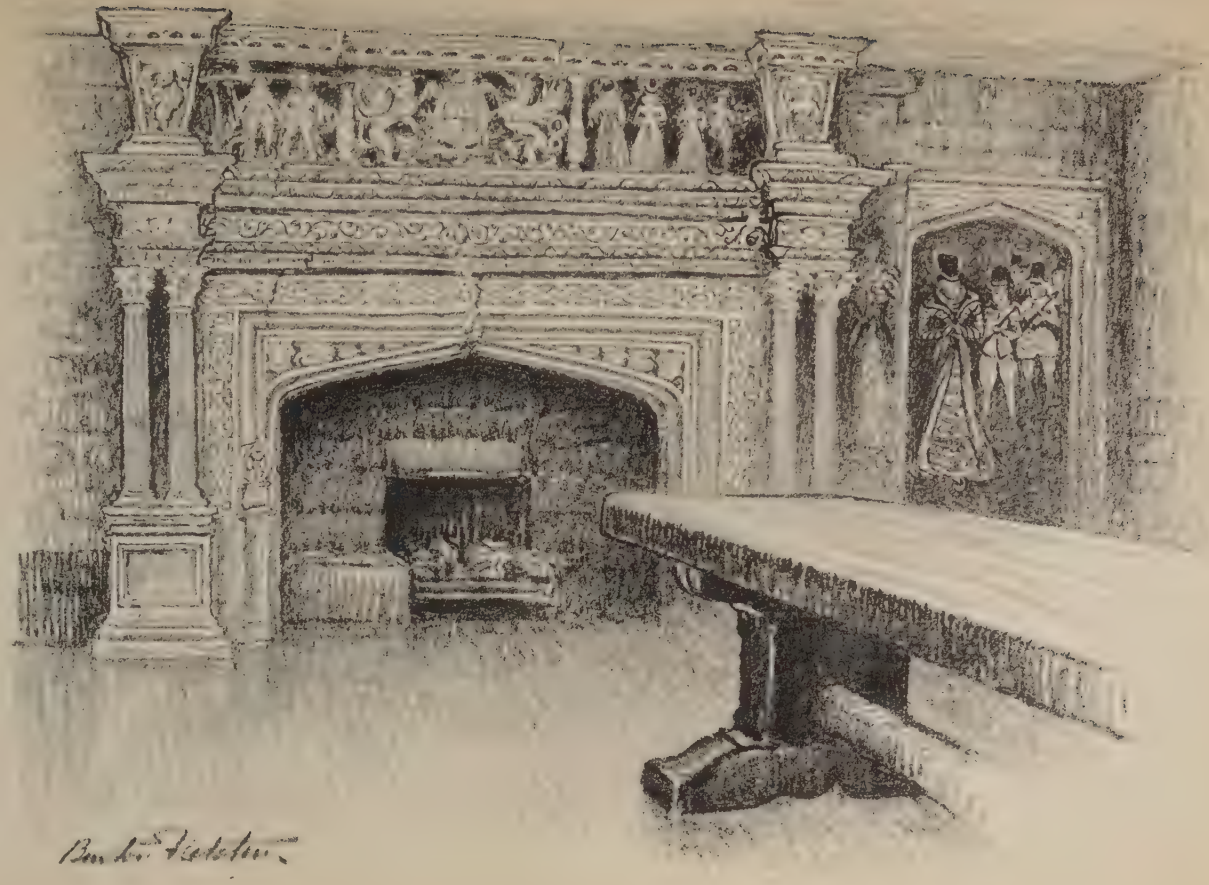
Arrived at Ashridge—"There was a loud rapping at the door and the lords demanded to see Elizabeth's Grace since they had a message that would brook no delay in delivery. A lady-in-waiting prayed them to wait until morning, for modesty's sake, but they pushed in and presented themselves at Elizabeth's bedside. The princess told them that 'she was not pleased at their entrance,' but they answered that she was summoned to Westminster and the order could not be disobeyed."

Elizabeth, complaining of ill-health, said she was very willing to depart when better. To this the impatient escort replied without more ado that the princess must return with them "dead or alive." The accompanying doctors announced that the journey might be accomplished without much danger since "her infirmity was hazardous but not mortall."

At the appointed hour Elizabeth was conducted by her escort and carried in the litter by easy stages towards London. She was so weak as to be "ready to swoon three or four times betwixt them."

Some short time after this trying journey came to an end, when "both feeble in body and comfortless in mind," the unhappy princess was hurried off by water to the Tower, where her mother had been beheaded not many years previously. Having set foot upon the threshold of her prison, the high-minded Elizabeth, turning round, exclaimed, "Here landeth as true subject, being prisoner, as ever landed at these stairs; and before Thee, O God, I speak it, having none other friends but Thee alone."

Lord Courtney is supposed to have been the cause of Mary's sudden jealousy of her rival. It is believed that the Queen herself wished to marry him, but Courtney "affected not so



LITTLE GADDESDEN MANOR.

high an honour, or rather he beheld her not with eyes of rapture. To Elizabeth he had made addresses, who of the ordinary share of beauty between them had much the better part, and was nineteen years younger. The fury of a woman scorned," says the historian, "was not wholly unconcerned in the neglect and subsequent imprisonment of a sister, together with her suitor."

It is recorded that "one Cleber, in 1556, proclaimed the Ladie Elizabeth Quene, and her beloved bedfellow Lord Edward Courtneye Kynge!"

After Elizabeth became Queen, Ashridge seemed to lose favour as a royal home. In the thirty-second year of her reign the manor of Little Gaddesden, in which Ashridge is situated, was granted by letters patent to Lady Jane Cheyney and her heirs. Twenty years before this Elizabeth had let on lease "Gaddesden Howe" to Sir John Eames.

During the reign of Mary many religious houses were re-established, and it is possible that Ashridge, like King's Langley, a few miles distant and formerly connected with it, was intended to be amongst the number.

King's Langley, indeed, actually became a monastery again, but there is no record that this was the case with Ashridge. It is possible that Elizabeth, in fear of being deprived of Ashridge, may have wisely decided to retire to her manor-house just outside the park; a smaller place, but probably more up-to-date in its arrangements than the monastery.

Little Gaddesden Manor, as it stands to-day, is purely Elizabethan in character. This fact will be observed from the illustration of a room in which classic detail in great profusion is carved upon a Tudor fire-place. The supposition is strengthened by the mural decoration of the walls over and at the side of the great fire-place, the subjects being connected with Elizabeth's early life there. Her arms are painted over the mantelpiece, and the letters "E. R." are traceable. On the door

of a recess beyond, Elizabeth is depicted as a young girl, standing alone, with clasped hands, while her armed captors approach from behind.

This well-preserved painted door was discovered lying in the vaulted cellar of the house only a few years ago.

It is interesting to note that Ashridge, after having been a private residence for hundreds of years, has once more become a college of learning; but political rather than religious in its teaching.

# CHAPTER XVI

## OATLANDS

" At Oatlands, where the buoyant air
Vast crowds of rooks can scarcely bear ;
Yet swarms on every tree are found,
Nor hear the Fowler's dreaded sound.
And when the Kite's resistless blow
Dashes their scattered nests below,
Alarmed they quit the distant field,
To seek the Park's indulgent shield."

Contemporary Poet.

LIKE the glorious Tudor palaces of Greenwich and Nonsuch, that of Oatlands has now entirely disappeared. This extensive range of buildings, hastily constructed by the impatient King, Henry VIII, stood near a gently sloping hill between Walton and Weybridge.

Having enclosed all lands for several miles round on the southern side of Hampton Court, Henry desired to add to his many residences yet another palace, in order to gratify his appetite for hunting the stag. At the western extremity of his newly established deer forest in Surrey was the estate of Oatlands, then the property of William Rede, to whom the King offered in exchange some lands attached to the suppressed priory of Tandridge. Whilst negotiations were in progress, Rede died, leaving a young son, John, his heir. The King took a short way to remove this hindrance to his obtaining the estate. He constituted Sir Thomas (afterwards Lord) Cromwell guardian of the boy, who, in that capacity, conveyed this coveted property to His Majesty in 1583.

Henry had hunted over Oatlands for many years previous to his legal possession of the estate. In 1514 he was there

" killing of stags holden in for the purpose," one after another all the afternoon.

The King, having become master of the situation, lost no time in erecting a palace on his newly acquired property. Before he could have become legally entitled to build, his bricklayers hurried to the site, already chosen, while the necessary materials were conveyed thither from the ruined monasteries in the neighbourhood: stone from Chertsey and Bisham Abbey, marble and other choice spoils from Abingdon. Bricks of a rich red colour were made specially at Woking. For the " hasty expedycion of the same," hand-hewers were kept at work by night and day in the forecourt, while carpenters made fittings for the chapel, the lodging adjoining, the lodging over the pastry, the king's lodging, and the great parlour.

Henry completed the great range of buildings in less than three years from the date of deciding his plans. This circumstance may have contributed to the odd shape and the queer angles of one of the courts of the palace.

The decoration and furnishing of the house, and the laying out and planting of the grounds followed. For his orchards, the King found provision of apple, pear and cherry trees in the gardens of Chertsey Abbey. The furniture ordered for the state rooms was of the most sumptuous description. Velvet and cloth-of-gold for upholstery, while the walls were hung with the finest tapestries from France and Flanders; on the floors were laid " carpets of Turque."

It was for the King's expected bride, Anne of Cleves, that work at the new palace was hurried forward, but, before this costly abode was ready, the bride arrived, had proved to be unacceptable, and therefore promptly dismissed and pensioned off with cast-off Richmond Palace as a residence. Oatlands was finally completed for Katherine Parr to live in.

But with a new bride, Henry must needs provide another new home. Within the boundaries of the ever expanding chase

attached to Hampton Court, a yet more extravagant folly was conceived and put into execution, an undertaking which proved to be the final effort of a disordered mind. Nonsuch Palace henceforth absorbed the remaining energies of the fat and failing Henry, whose bulk had to be considered when fresh accommodation was planned to house his unwieldy frame. Before the end came machinery was brought into action in order that the King might be raised out of his chair and pass from one room to another.

When superseded by Nonsuch, the palace of Oatlands, built on the grandest scale and furnished in the most sumptuous manner, was neglected and cast aside by its fickle owner.

This picturesque range of buildings at Oatlands appears to have been of great extent and complexity. The foundations of the palace are said to have been traced over an area of fourteen acres. It was constructed of red brick, with stone quoins and dressings, having gables, bays and ornamental chimney shafts, after the usual fashion of the day. From the outer gate a fore-court was entered, on either side of which stood a range of low buildings. A broad and many-gabled principal front, with a turreted central gate-house, concealed the chief lodgings of the inner court, where the great hall, the chapel and the state apartments were situated. A taller gate-house occupied the centre of the further side, and led to a cluster of buildings arranged within an irregular triangle containing several smaller courts. In this space was a central circular tower, with a projecting upper story and windows all around, whilst from the apex of the triangle and towards the River Thames another range of buildings terminated in a tall, stern-looking rectangular castellated edifice, the meaning of which is not very evident.

From the irregular walls of the palace stretched fountained terraces leading to the pleasance, the orchards, and onwards to the deer park. A new bridle way "with hanging gates" was made from Hampton Court, on the Surrey side, through

the royal manor of App's Court, and past Walton, to Oatlands. Another one led from Oatlands to Cobham, where tilting and flat-racing were indulged in.

Scarcely ten years after the purchase of the estate, Edward VI kept his Court at Oatlands, remaining there for a time under the guidance of the Protector Somerset.

In 1555 Mary and Philip removed from Hampton Court to Oatlands and while "on the way thither the queen received consolation from a poor man who met her on crutches and was cured of his lameness by looking at her."

During the succeeding reign the palace was frequently visited in the hunting season.

Queen Elizabeth within a year of her death, while hidden in and protected by a stand in the park, shot deer with a cross-bow as they were driven past her when standing ready to let fly. Near to the spot where it may be supposed that the shooting-box was placed, are some yew trees known as "Queen Elizabeth's Bowshot." These trees stand sixty yards apart. Another memorial of Elizabeth's hunting days may be seen on a brass in Walton Church comemorating John Selwyn, "keeper of her Majesty's park of Otelande."

James I visited the palace soon after his accession, probably during his tour of the royal estates, when many places were inspected by this business-like Scotch monarch. His son, Prince Henry, was promptly established at Oatlands, where he "kept house" in the first year after his father's accession. James's Queen, Anne of Denmark, made the palace her home, and it was here that she erected a new entrance gateway and a house for the fashionable project of raising silkworms in order to encourage the manufacture of silk, formerly a lucrative pastime among the nobility of England, and one which the King sought to revive with profit.

In the following reign Oatlands was settled on Queen Henrietta Maria, and here in 1640 she gave birth to a son

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S BOW SHOT,
OATLANDS.

named after the place, Henry of Oatlands, created Duke of Gloucester. When discord was abroad, the Queen on one occasion, whilst her husband was in Scotland, is said to have armed her household and such friends as could be hastily summoned, and kept them watching through the night in the park, ready to repel the attempt she suspected was about to be made to carry off the young prince by force.

After the death of King Charles I, the palace was partly, if not wholly, destroyed, the trees sold for ship-building, and the deer for venison, in a similar manner to that of the sad fate awaiting other royal possessions.

During the reaction caused by the Restoration, Oatlands, in its dismantled state, was returned to the Queen Dowager, who converted some of the outlying buildings into a lodge, a lease having been granted for forty years, if the Queen should live so long, to Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, Henrietta Maria's second husband. Eventually the entire palace disappeared and a new house being erected some little distance away. This mansion was granted by Act of Parliament, for "an adequate consideration in money to be ascertained by the proper officers" in the year 1804 to the Duke of York, who with his Duchess resided there and entertained extensively in the peculiar Arcadian manner of the day. The Temple of Vesta and the "Ruins of Tivoli" came in for the festivities, but the famous Grotto, still standing and built of tufa, shells, quartz and spars at great expense by the Duke of Newcastle, far excelled every other place for the display of strange and wonderful banquets. In 1814 the Allied Sovereigns lunched in the Grotto.

The Duchess of York, eldest daughter of Frederick William II, King of Prussia, is said to have extended her kindness even to the rooks, which were, by her orders, driven into the park from the surrounding fields, where they experienced a marked protection on the demesne and soon established a flourishing rookery.

That saintly monarch Edward the Confessor, who cursed the singing nightingales at Havering-atte-Bower, might be compared with this worldly Duchess who enticed the cawing rooks to the park at Oatlands in order that they might share with her the joys of peace with plenty.

The walls of one of the large enclosures containing a couple of finely moulded brick archways, now closed, are the principal remains of the Tudor palace of Oatlands. Within this space, where one of Anne of Denmark's mulberry trees even now bears fruit, the County Council have erected rows of workmen's cottages. Through the old gardens and orchards, newly constructed roads cut their way ruthlessly in all directions, barely escaping "Queen Elizabeth's Bowshot." Many stubborn foundations have been destroyed in the process of developing this carefully selected building estate. Among the losses here may be mentioned the pine-pits, where pine-apples were first raised in England. There is a picture bearing upon this fact in the dining-room at Ham House, Richmond, the subject being the presentation of a pine-apple to Charles II by Mrs. Rose on bended knee. It was the first specimen of this fruit grown and ripened on English soil. In the background of this picture stands a house hitherto known as Dorney Court, Berkshire, in spite of the fact that Dorney Court is a more ancient house than the one depicted. In the writer's opinion the building is undoubtedly Dorney House, Weybridge, which, although partially or wholly reconstructed, is situated near to the spot where the pine-pits were originally placed. Charles II granted Oatlands to his mother, and it is probable that the presentation took place in the garden of Dorney House during a visit paid by the King to Queen Henrietta Maria at the adjoining palace of Oatlands. Perhaps the first Cedar of Lebanon grown in Britain is the one, still flourishing, planted on the hill in the park by Prince Henry of Oatlands, the elder brother of Charles.

# CHAPTER XVII

## NONSUCH

"Here is a great resort of wooers
And much controversy among lovers."

BACON.

THE manor of Cuddington, Surrey, in the reign of Edward III belonged to Sir Simon de Codington, whose descendant conveyed it to Henry VIII in 1539, in exchange for land in Norfolk. His Majesty, having thus obtained possession of the estate, had it annexed, together with other lands, to the Honour of Hampton Court. The old manor-house and also the parish church were then ordered to be pulled down in the high-handed manner of the Tudor Sovereigns. Two parks were carved out of the property and the erection of a palace put into execution.

The works were not completed at the death of the King, yet they must have proceeded sufficiently far for the style and character of the architecture to attract the notice of common observers, and obtain for the building a name indicative of its superiority over all other palaces.

Leland, as Camden informs us, wrote thus:

"*Hanc, quia non habent similem,*
*laudare Britanni*
*Saepe solent, nullique parem*
*coquomine dicunt.*"

while his own words are as follows:

"Here Henry VIII, in his magnificence, erected a structure so beautiful, so elegant, and so splendid, that in whatever

direction the admirer of florid architecture turns his eyes, he will say that it easily bears off the prize. So great is the emulation of ancient Roman art, such are its paintings, its gilding, and its decoration of all kinds, that you would say that it is the sky spangled with stars. Long life to a king who spares no expense that the ingenity of his artists may exhibit such wonders, which ravish the minds and the gaze of mankind by their magnificence."

Paul Hentzner, who travelled through England as the tutor to a German nobleman, describes the gardens of Nonsuch thus :

" In the pleasure and artificial gardens are many columns and pyramids of marble, with two fountains that spout water, one round the other, like a pyramid. Upon it are perched small birds, that stream water out of their bills. In the Grove of Diana is a very agreeable fountain with Actæon turned into a stag, as he was sprinkled by the goddess and her nymphs with inscriptions."

Horace Walpole asserts that " there is scarcely an unnatural or sumptuous impropriety at Versailles which we do not find in the description of these gardens."

After the death of Henry, Nonsuch remained incomplete and little used during the next two reigns. A contemporary steward's account includes " Kepying the Queene's place & parkes, gardeyn, & wardrobe " at Nonsuch. Mary issued a warrant for sending to " our right entirely beloved cousin " —Cardinal Pole—" one buck of the season, to be taken of our gifte from our greate parke of Nonsuch."

Queen Mary intended to pull down the unfinished palace " to save further charges," but the Earl of Arundel, " for the love and honour that he bare to his old master," purchased the estate and completed the palace according to the original design.

In 1559 the proud owner received Queen Elizabeth during

one of her Progresses. On the Sunday after her accession the entertainments included a masque and a concert; next day the Queen witnessed a course or chase from a raised stand in the park, and the children of St. Paul's performed a play; this was followed by a "grett bankett at ye cost as ever was sene, for soper, bancett, and maske, wth drums & flutes & all ye mysyke yt cold be, tyll mydnyght; & as for chere has not bene sene nor heard," says an eye-witness.

At the conclusion of the visit Lord Arundel "gayffe to ye Quene grace a cubard of platt." No wonder Elizabeth returned again and again to Nonsuch. Eventually, eleven years later, she bought back the palace probably by barter in kind, other lands being given instead of hard cash. During the last ten years of her reign, previous to giving up hunting, and other outdoor amusements, Nonsuch would seem to have been her favourite country seat. Here the Queen kept open house and here in the evenings, if there were no masque or revelries, she would dance a gaillard with her courtiers, in the hope of hiding from herself and others the advance of years, writes Edward Walford in his "Greater London."

Original in her actions and modern in thought, Elizabeth had little use for the ancient palaces of her predecessors. As her father neglected Eltham in favour of Greenwich, so Elizabeth found Nonsuch more to her taste than either Greenwich or the other old-fashioned palaces where all entertainments had been given in the great hall. Fashions were changing and foreign customs were being introduced into the daily life of society. Under the new aristocracy great houses were being erected throughout the country for the entertainment of the pleasure-loving Queen. Separate suites of apartments were provided for her use and also for the members of the Court. Courtiers received individual commands to accompany Elizabeth to her private rooms after dinner, where games and dances took place between herself and the favoured few. Thus it was

that the up-to-date palace of Nonsuch became the chief residence of the Queen towards the end of her reign.

On one occasion when the Court was at Nonsuch, Lord Howard, after having been ordered to try the paces of a palfrey presented to Her Majesty, wrote the following letter to the donor :

" She took the gift most graciously, that the giver should think of a thing that she did so greatly want, and that she never in her life had one she had taken a greater liking for. Her Majesty hath not ridden on him, but meaneth, the next time she rideth, to prove him, and my lord : the day of the remove to the palace of Nonsuch, her majesty commanded me to ride on him, & I assure your lordship I could not give more commendations than he doth deserve." Thus did the gallant Lord Admiral Howard of Effingham prove himself helpful in the trying paces of a palfrey, after having outmanœuvred a threatening Armada.

This palace was the scene of an incident which figures in the history of England—the return of the Earl of Essex from Ireland, and the beginning of his disgrace. Once safely in the Metropolis he set out to present himself to his royal mistress. The quickest way to Nonsuch was by ferry from Westminster to Lambeth. With six chosen friends, the Earl of Essex hastened across, and took horse without further delay. The travel-stained party were overtaken by Lord Grey of Wilton, bound for the royal palace on behalf of Robert Cecil. A companion of Essex, by name Sir Thomas Gerard, dashed up to him, saying, " My Lord, I beg you will speak with the Earl." " No, I have business at Court," he replied. " Then I pray you," said Sir Thomas, " let my Lord of Essex ride before, that he may bring the first news of his return himself." " Doth he desire it ? " asked Lord Grey. " No," said Sir Thomas, " nor I think will desire anything at your hands." To this Lord Grey ejaculated as he rode forward, " Then I have business." After some

threatening remarks made by members of the tired little party, they resigned themselves to the situation. Lord Grey was enabled to warn Cecil and the Court of the approach of Essex. The Queen was left in ignorance of events.

A letter from Rowland Whyte to Sir Robert Sydney, dated "Nonsuch, Michaelmas Day at Noone, 1599," gives the story as follows:

"On Michaelmas Eve, about 10 o'clock in the morning, Lord Essex 'lighted at Court Gate Post, & made all haste up to the Presence, & soe to the Privy Chamber, and staied not till he came to the Queens Bedchamber, where he found the Queen, newly up, her Hare about her Face; he kneeled unto her, kiss'd her Hands, & had some private Speach with her, which seemed to give him great Contentment; for coming from her Majestie to go shifte himself in his Chamber, he was very pleasant, & thanked God, though he had suffered much troubles and Storms Abroad, he found a Sweet Calm at Home. 'Tis much wondered at here that he went so boldly to her Majestie's Presence, she not being ready, & he so full of Dirt & Mire, that his very face was full of yt. When ready he went up againe for half an Howre after 12. As yet all was well, & hr Usage very gracious towards hym. But when, after dinner, he againe went in to her Presence, he found her much changed, for she began to call hym to question for his Return, & was not satisfied in the Manner of hys coming away & leaving all things at so great hazard. She appointed the Lords to heare hym, & soe they went to Cownsell in the Afternoone. Yt is mistrustful that for hys Disobedience he shall be comytted. On the same evening a Commandment came from the Queen, to my Lord of Essex, that he should keepe his Chamber; & on the following Monday he was committed to the custody of the Lord Keeper at York House."

Poor credulous man, he little knew that he was being jilted and thrown over by one who, though a Queen, was still a woman.

During his imprisonment Essex wrote, "Haste, paper, to that happy presence, whence only unhappy I am banished. Kiss that fair correcting hand which lays new plasters on my lighter hurtes, butt to my greatest wounds applyeth nothing."

The story of the ring which Elizabeth gave to Essex may be referred to here. This ill-fated ring contained the portrait of a girl with auburn hair and it now lies on the tomb of Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey. Tradition says that it was given to Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, as a talisman, and in doing so the Queen remarked, "If you are in peril, send this ring back to me." Years after, he who had been her lover and favourite counsellor was a rebel, a captive under sentence of death, but the ring even then was never returned to Elizabeth. It is affirmed that Essex, shortly before his execution, endeavoured to send it back, but unfortunately he entrusted it to a woman whose husband intercepted it. When on her death-bed, this repentant lady confessed her guilt to the Queen, who, in her rage, violently shook the culprit and exclaimed, "God may forgive you, but I never can."

Every historian during the last three centuries has enlarged upon the character of Queen Elizabeth, it is therefore refreshing to turn back to the opinions of those who had actually come in contact with this strange complex. Sir Richard Harington, in a letter to Robert Markham, written but three years after the Queen's death, says, "Thys queene's speech did winne all affections, & hir subjects did trye to shew all love to hir commandes; for she would say, "hir state did require hir to commande, what she knew hir people woude willingly do from their owne love to hir." Herein she did shewe hir wisdome fullie; for who did chuse to lose hir confidence; or who woude wytholde a shewe of love & obedience, when their sovereign said it was their owne choice, & not hir compulsion? We did all love hir, for she said she loved us, & muche wysdome she shewed in thys matter. She did well temper herself towards all at home,

NONSUCH.

& put at variance all abroad; by which means she had more quiet than hir neighbours. When she smiled, it was pure sunshine, that everyone did chuse to baske in, if they could; but anon came a storm from a sudden gathering of clouds, & the thunder fell in wondrous manner on all alike. I nere did fynd greater shewe of understandinge & learninge, than she was blest wythe, & whoever liveth longer than I can, will look backe & become laudator temporis acti."

The unhappy episode at Nonsuch in connection with the downfall of Essex was perhaps the beginning of that long struggle against fate which eventually ended in the death of Queen Elizabeth at Richmond.

The first of the Stuart sovereigns, coming from the chilly north, had little inclination to reside in the fantastic and exotic palace of Nonsuch, preferring the purely British production of Theobalds in Hertfordshire where he had received his first great welcome as King of England. After having inspected all the royal houses recently inherited with the crown, James settled Nonsuch upon his Queen, Anne of Denmark.

Nothing remarkable seems to have taken place here either in his reign or in that of his son, Charles I, who in turn handed over Nonsuch to his Queen.

After its confiscation by Cromwell, the property was recovered by Charles II, who returned it to the Queen Dowager, Henrietta Maria. It was at this period that Samuel Pepys wrote in his Diary in 1663:

"We went (from Epsom) through Nonsuch Park to the house & there viewed as much as we could of the outside, and looked through the great gates, and found a noble court, and altogether believe it to have been a very noble house, and a delicate park about it, where just now there was a doe killed for the King to carry up to court."

Later, on another visit, he says:

"A great walk of an elm and walnut, and all the house on

the outside filled with figures of stories, and good painting of Ruben's or Holbein's doing ; the posts and quarters in the walls are covered with lead and gilded. I walked also in the ruined garden." Adding, " The Exchequer money was put into vessels and carried to Nonsuch "—during the Fire of London.

John Evelyn also went to the palace, as mentioned in his diary as follows :

" 1665 Jan. 3. I supp'd in Nonsuch House, whither the office of the Exchequer was transferr'd & tooke an exact view of ye plastic statues & bass relievos inserted 'twixt the timber & punchions of the outside walles of the Court, which must needs have been the work of some celebrated Italian. There are some mezzo-relievos as big as the life ; the storie is of ye Heathen Gods, &ct.

" The Palace consists of two courts, of which the first is of stone, earth-like, the other of timber, a Gotiq fabric, but there walles incomparably beautiful. The timber punchions, entrelices &ct were all cover'd with scales of slate, that it seem'd carv'd in the wood & painted, ye slate fasten'd to the timber in pretty figures, that has, like a coat of armour, preserv'd it from rotting. There stand in the garden two handsome stone pyramids, & the avenue planted with rows of faire elmes."

Another visitor to Nonsuch about this time wrote :

" The house is so surrounded with parks full of deer, delicious gardens, artificial arbours, parterres & shady walks, that it seems to be the spot where Pleasure chose to dwell with Health. There is a Gatehouse, very strange & graceful, three stories high, battled & turretted at every corner. The front of the house is richly adorned with variety of statues, pictures & other antick forms of excellent art & workmanship of no small cost. On the East & West wings two large polygonal turrets of 5 stories, command prospects & views of the two parks, & are the chief ornament of the house."

Charles II, who cared little for Nonsuch, granted the palace,

with both its parks, to Lord Grandison, in trust for his niece, Barbara Villiers, the woman who was the King's chief mistress at Whitehall. Having grown tired of her haughty and arbitrary ways, Charles created her Lady Castlemaine Baroness of Nonsuch and finally Duchess of Cleveland.

In spite of the many grants from her lover, Barbara Villiers, as duchess, pulled down the palace and also Worcester House, sold the deer, and turned the parks into farms. The materials were used partly to mend the roads, portions being carted to Epsom for building Durdans and other houses in the neighbourhood.

A casual visitor would say to-day that no traces of the old palace are to be seen, still, on the high ground, are the foundations of the banqueting hall in which "Gloriana" carried on many flirtations, in her old age, with her courtiers. A few ancient trees remain, including the finest plane in England. Some undulations in the ground mark the site of the gardens, while a stretch of chequered wall stands in its original form.

Considering the unique character of this romantic palace, once described as "the eclipse and glory of its kind," it is remarkable that no pointed allusion to Nonsuch is to be found in the writings of English poets. Neither Shakespeare nor Ben Jonson, Beaumont nor Fletcher, each of whom was writing when the fame of Nonsuch was at its height, has a word to say about the sumptuous tapestried walls of the fairy palace, or the fascinating gardens which surrounded this "wonder of the world."

Erected by the most extravagant of Kings, who imported architects and artists from Italy and elsewhere to adorn it, the palace of Nonsuch flourished for less than one hundred years. Disappearing as rapidly as it rose from the ground, there has been left no trace of its former appearance for the present generation to pass judgment upon, either to praise as

a work of art or to condemn as an example of ostentatious vulgarity.

Inserted in the wall of the porch of the present castellated mansion is a stone panel with the date 1543 carved upon it. The windows of some of the rooms contain stained and painted glass. In one of these there stands a serving maid handing a cup of wine to a pompous gentleman dressed in doublet and hose. The drawing-room window shows two bishops with Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn placed on either side. This glass is not contempory; but there are hanging on the walls of another sitting-room four sixteenth-century panel paintings of Henry, his wives, Katharine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn, and his daughter, Mary. These interesting portraits are said to have been discovered in the cellars of the original palace of Nonsuch. Upon a window pane inserted upside-down in the Queen Anne portion of the house are scratched these words, " J.E. and Miss Mary are two great romps May 30th 1727," Mary—who surely could not have been the sour-faced Lady of the Tudor portrait—has had her name crossed out with a diamond. Doubtless some story, long forgotten, was attached to this fanciful inscription.

# CHAPTER XVIII

## SHEEN PALACE

" At this, the challenger, will fierce defy,
His trumpets sounds ; the challenged makes reply.
With clangour rings the field, resounds the vaulted sky.
Their visors closed, their lances in the rest,
Or at the helmet pointed, or the crest,
They vanish from the barrier, speed the race,
And spurring see decrease the middle space."

" Palamon and Arcite."

THE history of Sheen contrasts strongly with that of Eltham. In the latter place the births and baptisms of princes and the marriage of an English King were the subjects of much rejoicing. The story of Sheen is overshadowed by sadness in connection with the death of two Kings of England and two Queens. One monarch, through grief at the death of his wife, cursed the palace and ordered it to be demolished ; while, in later days, the palace was twice destroyed by fire.

Undeterred by misfortune, nearly every owner of this royal manor chose to reside at it, and, in consequence, new palaces were erected as soon as the ruins of the older ones had been cleared from the site. Each building in turn was planned with increasing magnificence, until the final structure, completed in the latter years of King Henry VII, was renamed by him. " This erthely and secunde Paradise of our reign of England, and as I credeablie suppose of all the great part and circuyte of the worlde, the spectacle and the beautyouse exampler of all proper lodgyngs, the King's goodly manour of Rychemond, is sett and bullid between dyvers highe and pleasant mount-taynes in a valley of goodly playngs and felds, where the moos

holsem eyerys and higher opteyneth their course and accesse founded and erecte uppon the Thamy's sid." Thus was it described in an ancient survey.

The manor of Sheen became a royal possession as early as the thirteenth century, but in the Conqueror's Survey no such name occurs; it was then entirely waste and uninhabited, or comprehended within some adjoining manor.

There is nothing to show when a manor-house was first erected. The name has been spelt Syenes, Shenes, Scenes and Shine in various documents. "'Tis probable King Henry III was the original founder of the Royal Mansion in this place, and perhaps left it to his son, Edward I, to compleat. Had it existed any considerable time before Edward I's Reign, some public Records would certainly have born date there." (Survey of 1649.)

There was here a "Capital Messuage Appertenant," and Edward I visited the same in 1299. His successor is said to have resided "at his manor of Sheen upon Thames in September and October 1305." In that year an Audience was granted to the Commissioners who had been sent for the purpose of establishing a new Civil Government in Scotland in consequence of an Act passed in the previous Parliament.

From this time onward the King "treated with the Nobility of the Country at his manor of Shene."

It is possible that Edward III either rebuilt the manor-house or enlarged the then existing structure. He certainly spent a good deal of his reign at Sheen, where he eventually died in his sixty-fifth year. It was from this place, with face uncovered and followed on foot by many descendants, that his body was carried in procession to Westminster Abbey, a distance of some nine miles.

Baker in his Chronicles relates that the King, "besides being old and worn with the labours of war, had other causes that hastened his end; his grief at the loss of his so worthy a

son, dead but ten months before, and also for the loss of all benefit of his Conquests in France of which he had little now left but Callais. Edward was drawing his last breath, when his concubine, Alice Pierce, packing away what she could catch, even to the rings on his fingers, left him, and by her example other of his attendants, seizing what they could come by, shifted away, leaving his chamber empty. A poor priest seeing, approaches to the king's bedside, and finding him yet breathing, calls upon him to remember his Saviour, and to ask mercy for his offences, which none about him before would do. But now moved by the voice of this Priest, he shews all signs of contrition, and at last breath he expresseth the name of Jesus."

If not actually at the time of Edward's death, it was but a few days afterwards that his grandson, Richard II, came to Sheen, eventually making it one of his favourite residences. This extravagant ruler was a great lover of building, as may be witnessed from his magnificent Westminster Hall. No doubt Sheen was greatly improved by him and made worthy of being called a royal palace.

Queen Anne of Bohemia dated several Instruments from Sheen, and it was through her that the use of ordinary pins and side-saddles was introduced into England. This remarkable lady was a sister of the Emperor Wenceslaus. She died in the twelfth year of her married life. Stowe, in his quaint style, thus describes this sad event:

"On the 7th June Queen Anne died at Shine, in Southery. The King took her death so heavily, that besides cursing the place where she died, he did also for anger throwe down the buildings, unto which the former kings, being wearied of the Citie, were wont for pleasure to resort.

"Over Queen Anne's body her grief-stricken husband erected her tomb in Westminster Abbey at a cost, it is said, of £10,000 of our money. Two coppersmiths of London were ordered to represent her effigy with that of the king, their

hands tenderly clasped together, so that they might always bear witness of his devotion."

Bray makes the following pointed remarks concerning the chroniclers of the King's supposed action. "The sallies of this Passion, indeed, are frequently romantic, even to wildness, when they are sudden; but the demolition of a Royal Palace implies a deliberation which could hardly determine in such extravagance; and, is an act of insanity, as, if it had been possible for a Prince to have entertained this idea of, could not have been touched so slightly as it hath been by the historians of his time."

Sheen Palace, after Richard ordered its destruction, remained partially in ruins until its rebuilding, with improvements, was undertaken by Henry V, who founded the Carthusian monastery near, at the beginning of his reign. According to his biographer, Henry V made Sheen a "delightful mansion, of curious and costly workmanship, and befitting the character and condition of a King." The restoration was probably not completed until the accession of Henry VI, who carried on the work here as at Eltham, in order that the palace might be worthy of his bride, Margaret of Anjou.

Henry is known to have resided at Sheen in the years 1441 and 1442, from warrants having been dated from Shene at this time. On an insurrection taking place in London after the King had lost his reason, Queen Margaret sent him, under the care of his brother, Jaspar, to the palace for safety.

In 1461 Edward IV lived here, and appointed William Norburgh and Edmund Glase successively Custodians of the Manor. In the sixth year of his reign he granted the palace to his Queen, Elizabeth Woodville, for her life.

The palace built by Henry V and improved by Henry VI was a very different structure from that subsequently inhabited by the Tudors. It was in the style of similar buildings of that time, fortress-like and surrounded by a moat for protection.

On the occasion of Lambert Simnel's insurrection in 1487 the young Earl of Warwick was brought in procession to Sheen. "The queen and several members of the Court conversed with him, but they found him so deficient in intelligence that a proper comprehension of even ordinary subjects seemed out of the question."

In order to discuss the state of affairs at this juncture, "the King first called his council together at the Charter-house of Shene," according to Lord Bacon.

In 1488, when the Court celebrated Whitsuntide here, the Princess Anne of York, fifth daughter of Edward IV, was present, this being shortly before her marriage.

A royal tournament was held at Shene in 1492. During this time the festivities took place on what is now Richmond Green. They are described by Stowe as follows: "In the moneth of May, was holden, great and valiant justing within the Kinge's manor of Shine, in Southerie, the which endured by the space of a moneth, sometime within the saide place, and sometime without the gate of the saide manor. In the which space a combat, and, done betwixt Sir James Parker, knight, and Hugh Vaughan, gentleman usher, upon controversie for the Armes that Gartar gave to the saide Hugh Vaughan: but he was then allowed by the Kynge to bear them, and Sir James Parker was slaine at the first course. The cause of his death was thought to be long of a false helmet, which by force of ye Cronacle fayled, and so he was stricken in the mouth, that his tongue was borne unto the hinder part of the head, and so he died incontinently."

The private grounds immediately surrounding the palace were of necessity much confined, being hemmed in by the River Thames on one side and by the village on another, while the domestic offices occupied the third, leaving only the Green for tournaments and public entertainment. It was here, in this fine open space, that Sir James Parker was killed

in full view of the great concourse of onlookers there assembled.

Towards the end of the fifteenth century the palace of Sheen, which had first been erected only as a country manor-house, had assumed a certain air of importance and was of considerable dimensions, still fortress-like in appearance, but with little harmony in its architecture; it had been added to at various periods in the particular style of the moment without regard to the adjoining buildings. The palace was moated and protected in other ways.

Henry VII, with his family, was in residence at Sheen in 1497. The restricted accommodation of the palace being at that time overcrowded with officers of state and hundreds of servants, it was, perhaps, not surprising that a disastrous fire occurred, swept through the none too safe old building and enveloped the state apartments while the royal princes were in occupation. So rapid was the destruction of the palace that one of the galleries collapsed to the ground a few moments after the King had hurriedly passed along it, seeking safety.

Lord Bacon, in his Life of this King, described the fire in Latin, translated thus: "A great fire in the Palace of Shene near unto the King's own lodgings, whereby a great part of the building was consumed, with much costly household stuff, including hangings, beds, apparel, plate and many jewels, which gave the King occasion of building from the ground that fine pile of Richmond which is now standing."

Henceforth, not only the palace, but also the neighbourhood was known as Richmond.

HENRY VII. GATEWAY, RICHMOND.

# CHAPTER XIX

## RICHMOND PALACE

" Richmond ! still welcome to my longing sight,
Of a long race of kings the proud delight ! "

MAURICE.

"IN 15 Henry 7 Ano. D.M. 1501, the Kings mannor of Shene was situat near the Thames side, was burned, which afterwards the sayd King sumptuously rebuilt and called it Richmond, because his father and himself were Earles of Richmond.

" Henry, in contradiction to his usually penurious habits, rebuilt the whole palace at a great expence, the works were completed in 1501."

The foregoing paragraphs are from the " Chronicles " of Sir R. Baker, but the actual date when the Palace of Sheen was burned is unknown. According to Lord Bacon it was in 1497 ; Brayley, Jesse and Maurice say 1498 ; Evans and Crisp a year later.

Documents were dated from Richmond in 1501, the year given as the one in which the new palace was completed ; but it is hardly possible that this " Ertheley Paradise " arose, Phœnix-like, from the ashes of the old Sheen within twelve months from the great fire there.

Little is known of the actual appearance of the earlier building, but it would seem, judging from a line drawing of its successor, that portions of the mediæval stronghold of Sheen, constructed of stone, were incorporated in the Tudor palace of Richmond, built of brick with stone dressings ; the former

having long roof lines, while the latter was surmounted by innumerable towers, turrets and copper cupolas.

A contemporary description of Richmond Palace, taken from an old work and reprinted in the Antiquarian Repertory, includes many interesting details. After referring to a hunting-party arranged for the entertainment of some Spaniards visiting England, the document relates that "The King's Highness and the Company of Nobles repaired unto the pleasant place of Richmond."

Encircling the royal palace was a "mighty breke wall of great lengthe, and curious phason, which girdell is goodly barred and besete wt towres in his eche corner and angle and also in his mydde way, of many and grece and stages of height. His opynyngs be strong gats and duple tymbre and hert of oke, stikkyd full of nailys right thikke, and crossyd wt barres of iron." Within the gates "a faire large and brode courte currant, uppon ich side are galere's wt many wyndowes full lightsume and commodious. Ought of these galeres, uppon the brikke wallys, be dorys, and entrying into pleasunt chambres, oste and lodyng, of necessitie for such Lords and men of honour that waytis uppon the King's Grace and Highness." Next the greater court "a lesser curtilage, in whose myddell there is a conduite and cesterne of stone, craftily made, wt goodlye sprynges and cokkys. In the upper parte there ar lyons and red dragons, and other goodlye beasts, and in the mydds certayn braunches of redde rosys, owt of which flours and rosys is evrmore runyng and curse of clere and moost purest water unto the cesterne beneth. The pleasunt halle is uppon the right of the curtilage, pavyd wt goodly tille, whoes roof is of timbre, not beamyd ne brassid, but proper knotts craftily corven, joyned and shett to guyders wt mortes, and pynned hangyng pendaunt from the side roff in to the grownde and floure, after the moost new inveneyn and crafte of the prospectif of Gement, cast owt wt wyndowes glassid right lightsume

and goodly. In the wallys and siddys of this halle, betwene the wyndowes, be the pictures of the noble Kings of this realme in their harnes and robes of goold, as Brute, Engert, King William, Richard, Edward, visaged and apperyng like bold and valliaunt knights, and so ther dedys and acts in the cronicles right evydently be shewen and declared. The wallis are honged wt riche clothes of arras, this hole appartment was most glorious and joyefull to consider and beholde. On the left side of the curtilage is the chappell, weel paved, glasid, and hangyd wt cloth of arras, the body and the quere wt cloth of golde, and the autors sett wt many relikks, juells, and full of riche plate. In the wallys of this decente and pleasunt chapell is pictures of Kyngs of this realme, of thoes lif and vertue was so abundaunt that it bath dyvers and many miracles and be recount as Saynts, right properly pictured and beseen. The privey closett for the Kyng richely hanged wt silke and travesse, carpet and cusshons for his noble Grace. The rose is celyd, and whight lymyd, and checkeryd wt tymbre losengenrie, paynted wt color of asure, havyng betwene every chek a rose of gold and a portcullis. On the other sid of the chapell other like closetts for the Queeny's Grace and the Princes and my Lady the Kyng's mother. From the chapell and closetts extended goodly passages and galeris, payvid, glasid, and payntid, besett wt bagges of gold, as roses, portcullis, and such other, unto the Kyng's chambers; the first, the secunde, the thirde entraunged all there wt riche and costely clothes of Arras; celyd whightlymyd, and chekeryd. Dyvrs, and many moo goodly chambers therebethe, for the Queeny's Grace, the Prince and Princes, my Lady the Kyng's Mother, the Duke of Yorke, and Lady Margaret, and all the Kyng's noble kynred and progeny; pleasunt dauncyng chambers and beseen. Under and beside the halle is sett and ordred the housis of office, the pantry, buttery, selary, keechon, and squylery, right politickly conveyed and wisely; their coles and fuell in the yarde wtout nyghe unto the seid offices."

The foregoing gives a good idea of the arrangements and decorations in the private lodgings of the royal family which, together with the chapel and hall, surrounded the principal court. The rooms had windows on both sides, the outer ones, facing gardens, described thus :

" And in the leeft side of this goodly lodgyng, under the Kyng's wyndowes, Quene's and other Estats, most faire and pleasunt gardeyns wt ryall knolts aleyed and herbid ; many marvelous beast as lyons, dragons, and such other of dyvers kynde, properly fachyoned and carved in the grownde right wele sondid, and compasid in with lede wt many vyngs sedis and straunge frute, right goodly besett, kept and noryshid wt mutche labor and diligens. In the lougher ende of this gardeyn bette pleasunt gallerys and housis of pleasure to disporte inn, at chesse, tables, dise, cardes, bulus, bowlyng aleys, butts for archers, and goodly tenis plays ; as well to use the seid plays and disportes as to behold them so disportyng."

Looking back from the lower garden, over the clipped hedges and animals in cut box and yew, towards the fantastic outline of the palace were to be seen " The tourys of this excellent place, turretted and pynnaclid ; the halle, chambers, and other offices, coverede and nobly addressed ; and uppon everyche of them, bothe penacles and toure, a vane of the Kyng's armys (payntid and gilte wt riche gold and asure) in such exceeding guyse and manner that as well the plesunt sight of them as the heryng in a wyndy day was right marvellous to knowe and undrestond."

A very lively and comprehensive picture of an early Tudor royal house, although it is curious to note that in this survey no mention is made of the furniture in the various rooms. That there was a considerable number of useful articles is certain ; although luxury, as known in modern times, was entirely absent with one notable exception, namely, that of the state bedstead with its upholstery of the most costly material. This

RICHMOND PALACE.

important piece of furniture was introduced into England shortly before this period. It consisted of four carved and painted posts supporting a canopy decorated with heraldic devices. Many embroidered satin covered pillows in graduated sizes were heaped upon its fur-lined coverlets, underneath which were billowy feather beds.

Louis Jacob, a French writer of the seventeenth century, mentions a library at Richmond Palace, established by Henry VII ; indeed, the King must have been a true lover of literature for in his privy purse expenses are many payments for books amounting to upwards of £100.

On November 14th, 1501, Henry VII's son, Prince Arthur, was married at St. Paul's, the contract having been previously signed at Richmond. The prince was sixteen years of age and his bride, Katharine of Aragon, six months younger.

On Prince Arthur's death from plague in the following spring, the palace was, at his widow's desire, granted to her as a residence until her betrothal to her brother-in-law, Prince Henry. This second marriage seems to have been hurriedly brought about by the King, who was anxious to secure the remaining half of Katharine's dowry, which had not at that time been received. Henry VII's Treaty with Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain for the betrothal was signed at Richmond.

After thanksgivings had been given on account of the Spanish Sovereign's defeat of the Moors, Lord Bacon records that " the King kept his May-day at his Palace of Shene, now Richmond."

In 1506 the ill-fated palace again caught fire and suffered considerably, and it was then, as already stated, that a gallery collapsed in flames only a few minutes after the King and his family had walked along it.

Nothing daunted, Henry, for the second time, restored the palace, and the repairs were completed within twelve months.

It is said that a great part of the treasure which Henry

had extorted from his subjects was hidden at Richmond. £1,800,000 in specie, plate and jewels are supposed to have accumulated in underground vaults beneath the palace.

On April 21st, 1509, three years after the second conflagration at Richmond, the King sickened and died of consumption in the palace of his own building; his body, like that of Edward III, and that of his grand-daughter, Queen Elizabeth, was conveyed to Westminster Abbey for burial. The magnificent tomb-chapel, erected in the King's lifetime, became his final resting-place.

Lord Bacon writes of Henry's demise as follows:

"And thus this Solomon of England (for Solomon also was too heavy upon his people in exactions) having lived two-and-fifty years, and thereof reigned three-and-twenty years and eight months, being in perfect memory, and in a most blessed mind, in a great calm of a consuming sickness passed to a better world."

The final scene is also noticed by Fabian thus:

"This magnificent and excellent prince, thus paying to death his debt of nature, the Saturday next before St. George's day, in the night, died at his manor of Rychemont, of whom suficient praise cannot be put into writing; considering the continued peace and tranquility which he kept this his land and commons in; with also this subduing of his outward enemies of the realms of France and Scotland, by his great policy and wisdom, more than by shedding of Christian blood and cruel war, and overruled so mightily his subjects, and ministered to them such justice, that not alone they loved and dreaded him, but all Christian princes, hearing of his glorious fame, were desirous to have with him amity and alliance."

Another writer, Folkestone Williams, observes:

"Henry possessed princely tastes, and displayed them in a princely manner. In jewels and precious stones he laid out £110,000. He gave a liberal price for choice books and MSS.,

and handsomely rewarded skilful dancers. He was also partial to shooting with the cross-bow; to the games of chess, tennis, to cards and dice, at which he sometimes lost considerable sums. By encouraging the dreams of alchemists, he advanced chemistry, and by similar gifts to those who sent him rare animals, gave an impulse to the study of natural history, and to the progress of geological science. He possessed a real love for literature and music, very satisfactory proof of this was seen in the education he gave his successor, and in the employment of teachers of the highest eminence in every proper study and accomplishment."

Baker, in his "Chronicles," tells how Henry's dead body was brought out of his privy chamber into the great hall in Richmond Palace, and finally into the chapel, in each of which places it remained for three days whilst solemn dirges and masses were sung, preparatory to its final journey to Westminster.

It may be observed in passing that the remains of Richmond Palace to-day include the boldly-arched entrance gate and adjoining building erected by Henry VII in the typical Tudor style, composed of deep red brick and stone and purely domestic in character. Gothic architecture had reached the limits of its variations, and perhaps may be said to have expired in the amazing intricacies of the tomb-chapel which this same King built. It is in the design of the altar-tomb itself that the inception of the Renaissance took place in England, when an Italian craftsman erected in the centre of the elaborately chiselled chapel a simply designed object entirely at variance with its surroundings, and in a style hitherto unknown in this country.

It will be seen in the first royal additions to Hampton Court Palace, executed in the following reign, that Italian detail was carved quite incongruously in the form of decoration superimposed upon Tudor architecture, instances occurring in the bosses of the banqueting-hall roof, and also in the spandrils of doorways. During a brief period in the sixteenth century

house designing ran riot, and culminated in Nonsuch Palace, a dwelling-place outstepping all bounds of propriety in architecture by sheer extravagance.

There is a reference to Henry VII's tomb in Fuller's "Worthies," where it is stated that "In this chappel the founder thereof, with his queen, lieth interr'd, under a monument of solid brass, most richly gilded, and artificially carved. Some slight it for the cheapness, because it cost but a thousand pounds in the making thereof. Such do not consider it as the work of so thrifty a prince, who would make a little money go far; besides that it was just at the turning of the tide (as one may term it) of money, which flowed after the finding out of the West Indies, though ebbing before."

Henry not only built the Palace of Richmond in Surrey, but also added greatly to the comfort and accommodation at Eltham and Greenwich in Kent. These three royal houses were situated near enough to London to be convenient for transacting affairs of state with officials from the metropolis.

The King's remarkable character is well drawn by Bacon, who says Henry VII "was of a high mind, and loved his own will and his own way: as one that revered himself, and would reign indeed. Had he been a private man he would have been termed proud. But in a wise prince, it was but keeping of distance, which indeed he did towards all. He was sad, virtuous, and full of thoughts and secret observations, and full of notes and memorials of his own hand, especially touching persons. No doubt, in him, his fortune wrought upon his nature, and his nature upon his fortune. He attained to the crown, not only from a private fortune, which might endow him with moderation; but also from the fortune of an exiled man, which had quickened in him all seeds of observation and industry. And his times being rather prosperous than calm, had raised his confidence by success, but almost marred his nature by troubles."

Henry's will was made at Richmond, and in it he particularly

orders the completion of his chapel at Westminster, and states that he had put into the hands of the Prior and Abbot the sum of £5000 for the same purpose, and, amongst other things, he makes provision for a road to be formed, "well and surely gravelled, and raised upon a good height at his manor of Richemount."

After the death of this remarkable monarch who spent money lavishly at Richmond, it is not surprising to learn that Henry VIII, with his Queen, Katharine of Aragon, resided here during the early days of his reign. It was here that the young King kept his first Christmas, appearing in a tournament held on what is now Richmond Green, "when many noteable feates of armes were proved, both of tylte, tourney, and barriers."

On New Year's Day, 1511, to the "great rejoicing of the whole realme," a son was born to Queen Katharine at Richmond. This infant received a splendid baptism, and was named Henry, his sponsors being the Primate, the Earl of Surrey and the King's aunt. The young prince, having scarcely survived the festivities of his birth, died during the following month.

Peace was sworn at Richmond between England and France in 1515.

Charles V, Emperor of Germany, when on a visit to the English Court, was lodged at the palace; he came so largely attended with nobles and officers of State that Henry was put to some straits to find accommodation for his retinue; many of the foreigners had to be quartered on the English nobles.

It was at that time, when the resources of Richmond were taxed so heavily, that the King's eyes were turned towards a neighbouring palace of more extensive dimensions, where entertainment was being given with unprecedented magnificence and on a scale outvying any display possible at Richmond. Thomas Wolsey, Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England, Cardinal Priest of Sicily, and Legate a Latere, had established himself

on the opposite bank of the Thames, a few miles further up, where he erected the palace of Hampton Court, which contained five quadrangles to Richmond's two or three.

Wolsey's extravagance at Hampton Court aroused the jealousy of his royal neighbour at Richmond and a tragic exchange was the result. Stowe, in his Annals, says: "At this time the saide Cardinall gave to the King the Mannor of Hampton Court, purchased from the Lord of St. John's, and on which he had done great cost in building; in recompense whereof, the King licensed him to lie in his Mannor of Richmond at his pleasure, and so he lay there at certaine times."

As if this terrible blow inflicted on Wolsey by the King was not sufficient in itself, the people of Richmond, in resentment of the Archbishop's coming to live there, exclaimed, "Soe a butcher's dogge dothe lie in the Mannor of Richmond." However, dog or no dog, Wolsey continued for a time to have his day; and when the plague raged in London in 1525 he kept his Christmas at Richmond with a goodly supply of oranges as an antidote! On this occasion there was so much splendour and ostentation that the Cardinal enraged the already hostile people, especially so as the King happened to be at Eltham, living almost unattended, with an extraordinary absence of pomp or gaiety in deference to his distressed subjects in the plague-stricken capital.

The Court returned again to Richmond to celebrate St. George's Day in the twentieth year of Henry VIII's reign, when a feast was given in honour of the Companions "of the Order of the Garter, with great solemnity." "Wynys," it is said, were "layd yn dyvers places for X mealys, wyth Gascon wyne and Renyssh wyne, plentye."

Wolsey having died of a broken heart, the palace, with other manors, and a large dowry was granted by Henry to his divorced wife, Anne of Cleves, who previously resided at Dartford and Walton-on-the-Hill. The good but plain lady appears to have

FIRST COURT, RICHMOND PALACE.

been well pleased with the exchange and an augmented yearly allowance; indeed, this simple personage allowed no jealousy to cross her mind when once reconciled to her fate.

It was at Richmond that this Queen was waited on by the Royal Commissioners, informing her that her divorce from the King had been confirmed by Parliament; and, as was only natural, she became greatly terrified, fainted, and fell to the ground. Before the Commission departed Anne took off her wedding ring, to be given back to Henry, whom henceforth she was to regard as a brother. She bade her attendants tell the King that there should be no "womanliness" about her towards her "precious adopted brother." In after years she would remark to her friends, "There is no place like this England for feeding right well." She spoke no language but Flemish; she knew nothing of music or singing, and her only solace appears to have been in the delights of the table.

More than once, after her divorce, Anne of Cleves entertained the fickle King at Richmond. Such was her success on one occasion in 1541 that her enemies feared she would be reinstated as Queen.

Although Henry usually resided at Hampton Court in preference to Richmond, fruit and flowers were frequently brought from the latter garden while extensive alterations were in progress at the former. Rewards were given to the gardener at Richmond for sending "Sweet Water and Fruit," "Grapes and Apples" at various times to the newly acquired Hampton Court. Also for "rose-water, salad herbs, pears and peaches, for the King's Grace."

Richmond eventually passed into the hands of Edward VI, who preferred its pleasant situation, amidst pleasure gardens by the river's side, to that of any other palace, with the exception, perhaps, of Greenwich. This young King was to have made Richmond his permanent residence, and arrangements were planned for that purpose, but his doctors considered

Hampton Court healthier, in spite of the recent tragedies connected therewith.

In 1550 the marriage of Lady Anne Seymour, the Protector Somerset's daughter, took place in Richmond Chapel, the King being present. The same year Edward, with 300 of his attendants, came to Richmond because of the "sweating sickness" then raging in London. It was here, too, that he received the Marshal St. André, who came on an embassy from the French monarch to invest him with the Order of St. Michael.

After Edward's death Richmond was, for a time, less frequented by the Sovereign than formerly; religious troubles made it necessary for Queen Mary to hold her Court mostly in London. She was at Richmond when Wyatt's rebellion broke out, but hurried back to Westminster, and remained there until the insurrection was quelled and Wyatt and his confederates safely imprisoned at the Tower.

Mary and her Council assembled at Richmond to debate regarding the reception to be given to her future husband, Philip of Spain, and here she subsequently spent her honeymoon, staying for three weeks at the palace.

During the early part of her reign, Mary for a brief period kept her half-sister, Elizabeth, prisoner at Richmond, on suspicion of having instigated the attempts made upon the throne. She was conveyed here in a barge from the Tower before being incarcerated at Woodstock. However, in 1556 the princess seems to have entirely regained her sister's confidence, for, after she gave the Queen a magnificent entertainment at Hatfield, Mary returned the hospitality by giving at Richmond, in Elizabeth's honour, a brilliant *fête-champêtre*.

Perhaps this unlooked-for reconciliation was effected as a means to get rid of Elizabeth by marrying her to the Duke of Savoy; however, the manœuvre was unsuccessful.

On quitting Queen Mary's Court and crossing the River Thames, Elizabeth descried from the other side certain of her

poor servants who had been restrained from giving their attendance during her visit, and were anxiously desirous of seeing their mistress again. "Go to them," said the princess to one of her men, "and say these words from me: 'Tanquam ovis, like a sheep to the slaughter.'"

In the last year of her reign Mary was in residence at Richmond and, the weather being singularly inclement, it is supposed she generated a fever, which ultimately caused her death; another instance of the Tudors' bad luck in connection with Richmond.

Elizabeth, imprisoned at Hatfield, hurried to London immediately after her accession, and thenceforth spent much of her leisure at Richmond, which again became the centre of gay festivities. The Virgin Queen, with characteristic magnificence, here received the Embassy from France, to propose her alliance with the Duke of Anjou; it is said that she also entertained here Eric IV, King of Sweden, on his visit to England, but probably it was his brother, John, who came to ask Elizabeth's hand in marriage for the Swedish King. Another suitor, the Duke d'Alençon, came to Richmond, but was equally unsuccessful.

When at Richmond in 1586 Elizabeth received the commissioners who petitioned that the sentence against Mary of Scotland might be carried into execution.

In the following year appeared the ambassadors from Henry IV, King of France, and shortly afterwards the Duke of Nevers was added to this list, and was entertained at Richmond with great splendour.

Throughout her reign Elizabeth continued to visit the Palace, and in 1589, her health being in a somewhat precarious state, she was ordered "to take the air at Richmond." When there she visited the famous alchemist and astrologer, Dr. Dee, at the neighbouring village somewhat appropriately named Mortlake. The Queen placed implicit trust in this soothsayer's

predictions; "another example, if one is wanted," says Beresford Chancellor in his exhaustive book on Richmond, "of a great mind subservient to superstition."

Elizabeth's capacity, both for work and play, was immense. When at Richmond and no longer young she is said to have been so full of life that "six or seven gallyards of a morninge, besides musycke and syngings, were her ordinary exercyse." Bohun describes her habits whilst at the Palace: "First in the morning she spent some time at her devotions, then she betook herself to the despatch of her civil affairs, reading letters, ordering answers, considering what should be brought before the council, and consulting with her ministers. When she had thus wearied herself she would walk in a shadey garden or pleasant gallery, without any other attendants than that of a few learned men; then she took her coach and passed, in the sight of her people, to the neighbouring groves and fields, and sometimes would hunt or hawk; there was scarce a day but she employed some part of it in reading and study; she slept little, seldom drank wine, was sparing in her diet and a religious observer of the fasts; she seldom dined alone, but more commonly had with her some of her friends; at supper she would divert herself with friends, and if they made no answer she would put them upon mirth and pleasant discourse with great civility."

Elizabeth was extremely vain of her personal appearance and her courtiers invariably took advantage of this weakness. Not so Anthony Rudd, Bishop of St. Davids, who preached a sermon before the Queen, the subject being the infirmities of old age. Applying his remarks personally to Her Majesty, the bishop observed how time "had furrowed her face, and besprinkled her hair with meal"; after this sermon Rudd was never again promoted.

Another preacher, the father of the poet, John Fletcher, had bishoprics showered upon him by Elizabeth, but, when this

handsome bachelor married, the jealous Queen deprived him of his preferments, so that he died in penury.

During Elizabeth's residence Richmond Palace reached the height of its glory. Built in the most sumptuous manner by her grandfather, the first of the Tudors, and enriched by her extravagant father, it was the wit of the last monarch of the line which gave the required sparkle to the Palace and rendered it historically one of the most fascinating royal residences in the land with a sequence of events, some superbly brilliant and others unutterably sad.

The closing days of Queen Elizabeth's long and eventful reign were spent at Richmond. When the effects of old age appeared (for seventy was considered a great age in those days), the Queen realized, much against her indomitable will, that the end was approaching. Up to the last she made great efforts to regain her strength and by a show of her accustomed energy she would seek to mislead her subjects when put to the test. Feeling the strain upon life when surrounded by her Court in London she retired to Richmond, but grew no better, and as Violet Wilson, in " Queen Elizabeth's Maids of Honour," observes, " Apathetically she sat all day on a pile of cushions, staring listlessly into space, with dim unseeing eyes. Once did she rouse herself and spread consternation among the ladies. The word went round that Her Majesty had commanded a mirror to be brought to her. Ladies of the Bedchamber and Maids of Honour alike trembled, for the Queen had not seen her reflection for twenty years or more. Elizabeth took the glass so reluctantly brought to her, and saw not the beautiful reflection of her memory, but a lean, haggard, wrinkled old woman. As she touched the depths of self-humiliation, vanity took wing, and she fell into bitter railing at those flatterers who had declared her charms in no wise abated."

Food and drink alike the Queen refused, nor could she be persuaded to go to bed at night until, in despair, Lady Southwell

called in the assistance of the Lord Admiral, who prevailed where others had failed.

The Maids of Honour feared to go into the royal apartment to be with the strange, motionless figure, nor were their fears allayed by the discovery of a queen of hearts playing-card nailed to the Queen's chair. None durst remove it, fearing witchcraft, but from that moment they despaired of their mistress's recovery. Whether through witchcraft, a broken heart or old age, the sands of Elizabeth's life-glass were running out. The Maids of Honour spent their nights in the Coffer Chamber, usually in tears. Her coronation ring had to be cut off during her last illness. "A bad omen," said the people.

An account of her approaching end is given by Harington, who wrote a few years after her death at Richmond, thus:

"She became gloomy and suspicious, and walks much in her privy chamber, and stamps with her feet at ill-news, and thrusts her rusty sword at times into the arras in great rage. The dangers are over, yet she always keeps a sword by her table."

On one of the many occasions when urged to go to bed by her good counsellor, Cecil, the reluctant Queen angrily refused to budge, but in wild and wandering words hinted of phantasma that had troubled her midnight couch, adding that if he were in the habit of seeing strange things in his bed, as she did when in hers, he would not persuade her to go there.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, exhausted after his repeated but fruitless efforts to comfort his royal mistress with prayer, endeavoured to console her by saying that she had everything to hope from the mercy of God for her piety and the admirable work she had performed in the establishment of the Reformation. To this pious suggestion he received the following characteristic reply: "My lord, the crown which I wore for many years made me sufficiently vain while I lived; I beg you will not now increase my fault in that respect."

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DEATH CHAMBER.
RICHMOND.

Bodily weakness and mental distress rapidly increased, until, in March, she took to her bed. Sir Robert Carey, her kinsman, gives an account of her condition: "She took me by the hand," he observes, "and wrung it hard, and said, 'No, Robin, I am not well,' and then discoursed with me of her indisposition, and that her heart had been sad and heavy for ten or twelve days; and in her discourse she fetched in so few as forty or fifty great sighs. In all my life I have never heard her fetch a sigh before but when the Queen of Scots was beheaded." The dying Elizabeth is said to have insisted on occupying the narrow room over the entrance gateway, there to watch for the hoped-for return of the ring she had entrusted to Essex, whom in her delirium she fondly imagined to be alive. This room remains to-day as originally wainscoted in deal by the thrifty Queen at a time that English oak was being reserved solely for shipbuilding.

Elizabeth's illness grew worse till, on March 23rd, she was speechless. It is said that by signs she indicated to her Council the King of Scotland as her successor. Then she beckoned to the Archbishop to come to her, and listened long to his prayers; twice, when he rose from his knees to depart, she motioned to him to continue. Early the following morning, in the seventieth year of her age and the forty-sixth of her reign, she breathed her last breath.

It is a well-known fact that the loss of her favourite, the Earl of Essex, accelerated Elizabeth's end, for a change in the condition of her health took place from the date of his execution, after which both her mind and her body weakened.

Shortly before her death the French Ambassador wrote, "To-day the Queen's music has gone to her. I believe she means to die as gaily as she lived."

Sir Robert Carey, firm in resolve, determined to be the first to tell the Scottish King of his inheritance and, knowing that efforts would be made to keep Elizabeth's death secret,

he had arranged with his sister, Philadelphia (Lady Scrope), for a signal. The hours of waiting passed slowly, but at chilly dawn a lattice window opened, over the gate of Richmond Palace, and Lady Scrope dropped a sapphire ring to her brother, standing beneath the gate, as a sign that Elizabeth, Queen of England, had quitted her earthly kingdom.

Carey at once set off on horseback for Edinburgh, to convey the news to King James, for which act he was afterwards made Earl of Monmouth. The ring he carried is supposed to be that of the "Orrery jewel" now in the possession of the Earl of Cork and Orrery.

The following lines are quoted from "Brittain's Lachrimæ":

"The Lady Elizabeth, borne on the eve of the Virgin's nativity died on the Eve of the Virgin's Annunciation, 1603, even as she is now in Heaven with the blest virgins that had oyle in their lamps."

"Weep little Isle and for thy Mistris' death
Swim in a double sea of brakish waters.
Weep, little world for great Elizabeth!
Daughter of Warre, for Mars himself begat her,
She was and is. What can then more be said?
On Earthe the first—in Heaven the second Maid!"

In her journal, jotted down at this time, Lady Southewell observes:

"We were watching the queen's body, which had been cered up: and, being all in our places about the corpse, which was fast nailed up in a board coffin, with leaves of lead covered with velvet, when her body burst with such a crack that it splitted the wood, lead, and cere cloth—whereupon the next day she was fane to be new trimmed up."

Shortly after the tragic death-scene of the last of the Tudors, a solemn water procession started from Richmond by night to Westminster, bearing Elizabeth's body for interment beside

her ancestors. This proved to be the last really impressive pageant to take place in connection with the palace.

A wax effigy, restored in 1760 and supposed to be taken from a death mask, was carried in Queen Elizabeth's funeral procession, "at which time," says Stow, "the city of Westminster was surcharged with multitudes of all sorts of people, in the streets, houses, windows, leads and gutters, that came to see the obsequies. And when they beheld her statue, or picture, lying upon the coffin, set forth in royal robes, having a crown upon the head thereof, and a ball and a sceptre in either hand, there was such a general sighing, groaning, and weeping as the like hath not been seen or known in the memory of man; neither doth any history mention any people, time, or state to make like lamentation for the death of their sovereign."

Augustus Hare remarks of the effigy that "she looks half-witch and half-ghoul. Her weird old head is crowned by a diadem, and she wears the huge ruff laden with a century of dust, the long stomacher covered with jewels, the velvet robe embroidered with gold and supported on panniers, and the pointed high-heeled shoes with rosettes, familiar from her pictures." This effigy, with several others, now rests in a small chamber over the Islip Chapel in Westminster Abbey.

There is, or was, in the same little room, a "skeleton in a cupboard," and the writer has a vivid recollection of seeing it by candlelight, on one occasion, whilst being conducted over the abbey after dining with the Dean. A long passage leads from the Deanery into the nave, and from the choir can be reached a narrow staircase with a door at the foot and another at the top, both secured by ancient locks and enormous keys; keys which creak alarmingly in the stillness of the night and add uncomfortably to the visitor's excitement when the "wax-works" are seen in the room above.

The night-watchmen of the Abbey were at that time allowed

to play cards in order to keep their thoughts from wandering—a wise precaution.

With the failure of the House of Tudor the glory of Richmond Palace departed. Although from time to time it was subsequently inhabited by princes and princesses of the realm, the fast decaying loveliness of its many gilded pinnacles brought about a sense of weariness from which the great building could never recover.

James I occasionally, with his Queen, Anne of Denmark, paid visits to their son Prince Henry when the latter lived at Richmond. The prince, being here, in 1606 received the French and Spanish ambassadors.

It was during the first symptoms of the disease that ultimately carried him off, that Prince Henry removed from Richmond to St. James's, where he died in 1612. He appears to have undermined his constitution by bathing in the Thames whilst residing at Richmond Palace. A contemporary historian wrote:

"There was scarcely a landowner, groom or peasant to whom the prince had not recommended himself at Richmond, by amiable condescension and thoughtful kindness; yet he neither affected a familiar manner with his inferiors nor would encourage it in any of them if attempted in his presence."

Several alterations and repairs were effected during Prince Henry's residence at the palace, but when he left the whole of his establishment was dismissed, and the valuable collection of pictures, to which Charles afterwards added, was dispersed among the other palaces of the King; some were sent to Hampton Court, where they have remained.

After a few years of neglect, Henry's brother Charles came to Richmond, and the Duke of Buckingham was more than once a guest of the prince there. It was from this palace that the two set out on their romantic expedition to Spain. However, with one exception, during the plague in London, when

the Court removed to Richmond for safety, Charles I seldom resided here. His elder son, Charles, afterwards King, was ordered to Richmond during his father's absence in Scotland, and this was the last royal visit prior to the Parliament under Cromwell.

Isaac d'Israeli thus refers to the havoc made by the Civil War among the palaces :

" It was one of the miserable effects of the wars that the ancient mansions of Oatlands, Richmond and Theobalds, etc., were pulled down to raise money to satisfy the arrears of some regiments of the army. They all did not raise so much as any one of them had cost when built, and they were among the architectual curiosities and ornaments of the nation."

Richmond Palace, after having been sold to Thomas Rooksby, was subsequently purchased by Sir Gregory Norton for ten thousand pounds ; Norton had sat on the trial of King Charles I, and signed the death warrant. After this degradation the place never regained its former splendour. With regard to its final destruction an old account states :

" On what Occasion and at what Time it was demolished, neither History nor Tradition informs us with any certainty. At present very little of the Palace remains."

In the Survey of 1649 it is recorded that the wardrobe buildings included divers garrets, one pair of strong gates, leaded, arched and battled with stone overhead. There were also the lodgings of the Cupbearers, Carvers, Sewer and Grooms of the Privy Chamber ; the Spicery and Chandlery, the lodgings of the Cofferer and Clerk of the Green Cloth. The Apothecary, the Confectioner, the Wardrobe Keeper, the Porter, the Chaplain and the Gentlemen of the Bedchamber all had their several apartments.

Queen Henrietta Maria occasionally lived at Richmond, although much of the palace in 1665 had become uninhabitable. Some repairs were made by King James II. After the Revolu-

tion the Princess Anne asked to be allowed to live here, but her request was refused.

In 1700 the palace was "an old ruinated building"; a "decayed and abandoned peice of the outparts" was granted to Richard Hill, who built over the site.

The only parts of the original Tudor palace left untouched were about this time converted into "modern dwelling-houses," and these are now known as the Old Palace and Wardrobe Court. This latter was the house of the wardrobe keeper and other royal servants. In recent years several of the arched interior doorways with carved spandrils and other original features have come to light, including a great length of timber framing with wattle-and-daub filling.

The wardrobe was of considerable dimensions, and in the roof of this range were found some great oak chests containing a portion of the two thousand dresses which were acquired during the lifetime of Queen Elizabeth.

In the days of the Hanoverian Kings very little is heard of Richmond. On the accession of George I the remains of the old palace were given to the Prince of Wales, who soon wrote to his father complaining at the want of accommodation for the Ladies in Waiting. The King replied, giving leave for the erection of the houses facing Richmond Green, and known as Maids of Honour Row.

The Trumpeter's House, built on the site of the chapel and great hall, is so called from the two stone figures of youths in Tudor servitor's dress with trumpets held to their lips; these were dug up, together with a fine stone swan. There are also the remains of cellars in the surrounding grounds.

Near the garden front of Trumpeter's House there stood a "Canted Tower" with a hundred and twenty-four steps ascending to the roof.

Several boats laden with rich and curious effigies formerly belonging to his father were removed from Richmond to White-

MAIDS OF HONOUR ROW, RICHMOND.

hall by Charles II. The two stone boys appear to have been overlooked.

Little enough is left to bring back to the visitor to-day the long and tragic story of Sheen and Richmond, so inseparable from the lives of many of England's greatest Sovereigns who resided in this glorious place. The interested spectator can walk under the open gateway, shorn of its gates but still proudly displaying the weather-worn arms of its royal builder, there to picture to himself the English Sovereigns and others who passed under it, some to return alive, but others to die beyond its portals. On looking up at the room above the arch the visitor may pause at the thought of the ring dropped therefrom three centuries ago in token of the passing of the House of Tudor and the advent of the Stuart Sovereigns

# CHAPTER XX

## THEOBALDS

"Here he lives in state and bounty,
Lord of Burleigh, fair and free;
Not a Lord in all the county
Is so great a Lord as he."

Contemporary poet.

THE history of Theobalds, or Tibbolds, as it is sometimes written and should be pronounced, embraces but a short period of time and is concerned mainly with one reign only—that of James I. Although Queen Elizabeth paid several visits to Theobalds as the guest of Sir Robert Cecil, it was not until 1607 that the property became a royal possession. In 1650 the house was already being demolished in order that the sale of the materials should be devoted, like those of Greenwich and other royal palaces, to paying the soldiers of Oliver Cromwell.

While it lasted, the Court life at Theobalds was not particularly elevating. The magnificent house erected by Cecil, who surrounded it with magnificent gardens, was in the following reign soon to become the scene of orgies unworthy of royal patronage.

In May, 1603, Sir Robert Cecil gave a noble reception, accompanied by princely hospitality to the King, newly arrived from Scotland. James had dined early with Sir Henry Cocks at Broxbourne, and was accompanied by Sir Edward Denny and many of the Scottish and English nobility. An eye-witness, John Savile, thus describes the scene:

"As his Highness was descried coming towards Theobalds,

the concourse of people was so frequent, that it were incredible to tell of. His Majesty rode along with four noblemen laying their hands upon his steed, two before and two behind. In this manner he came to the courts' door, where he alighted from his horse, from which he had not gone ten princely paces but there was delivered to him a petition by a young gentleman, his Majesty returning his gracious answer that 'he should be heard and have justice.' "

After a visit to Enfield Chase, the King proceeded on his journey to the metropolis.

Three years later Cecil, now Earl of Salisbury, again received James and Christopher IV, King of Denmark, who stayed with him four days. James was so delighted with Theobalds, and its convenient situation for hunting, that he desired to become possessed of the noble mansion, and make it his principal country place. He therefore gave in exchange for it the palace at Bishops Hatfield.

It was, perhaps, owing to the extraordinary hospitality he received here that the King became enamoured of Theobalds. A fellow-guest describes one of these entertainments in the following terms :

"After dinner the representation of Solomon and his temple, and the coming of the Queen of Sheba, was made, or (as I may say better) was meant to have been made. The lady who did play the queen's part did carry most precious gifts to both their Majesties, but forgetting the steps arising to the canopy, overset her caskets into his Danish Majesty's lap, and fell at his feet, though I rather think it was in his face. Much was the hurry and confusion ; cloths and napkins were at hand to make all clean. His Majesty then got up, and would dance with the Queen of Sheba ; but he fell down, and was carried to an inner chamber. The entertainment and show went forward, and most of the presenters went backward or fell down : wind did so occupy their upper chambers. Now did appear in rich

dresses, Faith, Hope, and Charity. Hope did essay to speak, but wine did render her endeavours so feeble that she withdrew. Faith was then all alone, for I am certain she was not joined with good works, and left the court in a staggering condition. Charity came to the king's feet; she then returned to Hope and Faith, who were both sick in the lower hall."

In the following year Theobalds was exchanged for Hatfield, and later, when in full possession, James received a second visit from the King of Denmark, and entertained him here for fifteen days "with an uninterrupted succession of feasting and diversions."

Fond as James was of hunting, he did not ride well and was often thrown.

"When staying at Theobalds in the depth of winter, he rode out one day after dinner, and his horse stumbling, he was cast into the New River. The ice broke and in plunged his august Majesty head foremost, while nothing but his boots remained visible. It would have gone ill with him that day had not Sir Richard Young alighted, and ran to his rescue. His attendants had to empty him, like an inverted cask, of the river water he had drunk so freely against his will; and a warm bed at Theobalds soon restored him to his pleasures and follies," says Joseph Meade, in a letter to Sir Martin Stuteville, dated January 1622.

From contemporary letters published by Ellis we learn that James did many "wicked, crack-brained" things at Theobalds, for he had "fools, fiddlers, and master fools"; some called him "Old wife," and his minions addressed him as "Your sowship"; that the ladies of the Court rolled about intoxicated, and he himself was carried off to bed after having proposed five-and-thirty healths; how oaths were never off his lips, nor cowardice and hypocrisy out of his heart; and how, in contradiction of all his vice and foolery, he translated the Psalms, wrote books of piety, and welcomed bishops to his

OLD PALACE, THEOBALDS.

presence as warmly as if they had been buffoons. Laud wrote in his diary, September, 1609: "My first sermon before King James at Theobalds."

James lived, in spite of his follies, until March 27th, 1625, on which day he died at his favourite Theobalds. The blood was scarcely cold in his veins when a knight-marshal was seen issuing from the palace to proclaim his successor: but, instead of proclaiming Charles as "the rightful and indubitable heir," he used the words "rightful and dubitable heir," and was corrected in the error by his secretary.

On the day following the death of his father, Charles took coach at Theobalds for London and was proclaimed at Whitehall and Cheapside. The route by which the new King entered the city may still be traced by the names of the streets on the north side of Holborn: namely, Kingsgate Street, King Street, King's Road and Theobalds Road.

Charles resided at Theobalds from time to time till the Civil War, and to this place he retired when it was no longer safe to remain at Westminster.

In his history of Hertfordshire, Norden states that he found the palace of "Thibauldes" so vast a subject that he despaired of being able to do it justice.

"To speake," he says, "of the state and beuty thereof at large as it deserveth, for curious buildinges, delightfull walkes, and pleasant conceites, within and without, and other things very glorious and ellegant to be seene, would challenge a great portion of this little treatise; and therefore, leaste I should come shorte of that due commendation that it deserveth, I leave it, as indeed it is, a princely seat."

The commissioners who were appointed by the Parliament in 1650, to make a survey of the palace, reported that "it was an excellent building, in very good repair, by no means fit to be demolished, and that it was worth £2,000 per annum, exclusive of the park; yet, lest the Parliament should think

proper to have it taken down, they had estimated the materials, and found them to be worth £8,275. 11. 0."

The survey states that the palace consisted of two principal quadrangles, besides the Dial Court, the Buttery Court, and the Dove-house Court, the Fountain Court and a Cloister. The Presence Chamber was "wainscoted with carved oak, painted of a liver colour, and richly gilded, with antique pictures over the same; the ceiling full of gilded pendants, setting forth the room with great splendour." There were several galleries and "leaded walks," many brick towers "of no small ornament to the house, and rendering it comely and pleasant to all that passed by."

The traveller, Paul Hentzner, wrote: "Here are great variety of trees and plants; labyrinths made with a great deal of labour; columns and pyramids of wood and other materials up and down the garden. Lead cisterns, into which the water is conveyed through pipes, so that fish may be kept in them, and in summer time they are very convenient for bathing; there are enclosures for pheasants, aviaries, and menageries."

In a letter from King James to Buckingham he inquires after the "elephants, camels, wild asses," etc. There was a large camel-house and a falconry at Theobalds as at other royal palaces.

Though nearly everything was destroyed by Cromwell, a chapel and a hall still existed about one hundred years ago. To-day nothing but a very small portion of the house itself remains, although several enclosures exist with their high surrounding walls. From these it is possible to gather some idea of the plan and lay-out of the gardens made by Cecil in the days of Queen Elizabeth. Curious niches and a typical oak door are here together with a narrow river, possibly that into which James I plunged from his horse.

A few rooms and some original windows are to be seen incorporated in the house known as the "Old Palace," under-

neath which cellars extend to remind the present abstemious generation of the good old days of their ancestors. The quiet and peaceful aspect of Theobalds to-day in no way suggests its former state of noisy and uncontrolled buffoonery.

Cecil complained before entertaining Queen Elizabeth here that "upon fault being found with the usual measure of her chamber I was forced to enlarge a room for a large chamber: which need not be envied by any for riches in it, more than the show of old oak and such trees, with painted leaves and fruits."

The Queen, on one occasion, referred to Cecil as "The disconsolate and retired spryte, the hermite of Tyboll."

# CHAPTER XXI

## KEW PALACE

"So sits enthroned, in vegetable pride,
Imperial Kew, by Thames's glittering side;
Obedient sails from realms unfurrowed bring
For her the unnamed progeny of Spring."

DARWIN.

TO most visitors in these days the chief associations of Kew are connected with royal gardens, where trees, shrubs and flowers are to be seen in the perfection of their beauty, not only as horticultural specimens of their kind but also in their studied arrangement and grouping of masses—displayed to their best advantage in beds and borders or amidst their natural surroundings. It is almost a matter of surprise to the garden enthusiast to discover that, within the great enclosure of Kew Gardens, there stands a royal palace having historical associations with the Hanoverian monarchs.

Several houses inhabited by royalty have risen and fallen at Kew, to the confusion of some historians. The first building erected there was a "dairy house" which belonged at one time to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who was living at Kew when his wife, Amy Robsart, whom he had married at Richmond but a couple of miles away, met her mysterious death at Cumnor House near Oxford. The dairy house, at the end of the sixteenth century, became the residence of Sir Hugh Portman, "the rich gentleman that was knighted by her Majesty at Kew," in 1595, on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's visit to his neighbour, Sir John Puckering. Less than forty years

later "the capital messuage called Kew" was purchased by Samuel Fortrey, the son of a Dutch refugee whose name became anglicized from De la Forterie. In 1631 this city gentleman built the existing mansion on the site of the dairy house; and that achievement is still commemorated by the initials F. S. & C. (Fortrey, Samuel, and Catherine, his wife) over the front door. The fact that the builder was of Dutch descent appears to be the reason why this house of Jacobean architecture became known as the Dutch House. Very different in aspect is the Queen's House, Greenwich, completed but four years later.

After being sold to Sir Richard Levett, who also owned another house here, the leases of both places at Kew were eventually secured by Queen Caroline, wife of George II. One residence she herself occupied, while the Dutch House was reserved for her daughters. In 1728 the young princesses are described as living in a "house at Kew over against where Mr. Molyneux lives"; and a treasury warrant, dated 1733, authorized the cleaning of thirteen pieces of tapestry hanging in the Dutch House. Mr. Molyneux' house passed into the possession of Frederick, Prince of Wales, making a third residence occupied by the Royal Family at Kew. No wonder that with these three separate households to contend with, quarrels took place between mother and son, who became estranged.

It is to Queen Caroline that we owe the existence of the famous Kew Gardens. In the making of these extensive pleasure grounds the Queen constructed many fantastic garden houses and created a fashion which became not only an expensive hobby, but also a source of ruin to many members of the nobility. Caroline herself became involved in debt owing to her extravagance in the erection of "follies," and, "to deceive her frugal husband," says Horace Walpole, "she vowed that she paid for all with her own money, nor would the king ever look at her intended plans, saying that he did not care how she flung away her own revenue." He little suspected the

aids Sir Robert (Walpole) furnished to her from the treasury; when she died, she was indebted £20,000 to the astonished King." "Your nonsense" and "childish silly stuff" were the epithets which the King flung at the absurd projects that Caroline undertook in the name of ornamental horticulture.

As observed by Lloyd Sanders, "the queen's tastes tended to crudity." Her chief productions were Merlin's Cave and the Hermitage or Grotto. The former consisted of three octagonal rooms with bee-hive shaped roofs, the whole looking like a Kafir kraal, with a pretentious Gothic porch tacked on to it. The Cave contained wax images of Merlin and his secretary; Queen Elizabeth and her nurse, and Elizabeth, Queen of Henry VII, and Minerva; "all taken from life by the celebrated Mrs. Salmon," the Court attendants serving as models. Of the Grotto, one Peter Green wrote:

> "Say, Father Thames, whose gentle pace,
> Gives leave to view what beauties grace
> Your flowing banks, if you have seen
> The much-sung Grotto of the Queen."

Frederick, Prince of Wales, came to reside at Kew in 1731, not at first in the palace, although, after his mother's death, he appears to have included the Dutch House in the group of residences used by himself and his staff. The prince's cipher is to be found there on many of the door locks.

Before the end of the reign of George II the Dutch House became the home of the young prince who was to reign over England for sixty years as George III.

The fame of Frederick, Prince of Wales, has gone down to history in the epigram which sums him up in these words:

> "He was alive and is dead,
> Nothing more is to be said."

KEW PALACE.

According to Lady Irwin, a lady of the bedchamber, life was not too exciting at Kew, for she observes that " the Prince is living at Kew quite in private without form, and passes his time with his family. Amusements, music, play, walking and whatever can be thought of in the country in a large family of men and women."

Kew has good reason to be grateful to the prince and his wife, for, being ardent gardeners themselves, they inspired their visitors to assist in the work, one of whom wrote, " All of us, men, women and children worked on a new walk—a cold dinner."

After Frederick's death his widow devoted herself to the education of her son, George, who lived in the Dutch House, and to the society of Lord Bute. Walpole maliciously relates that " this favoured personage, naturally ostentatious of his person and of haughty carriage, seemed by no means desirous of concealing his conquest of the princess. His brows grew more theatric, and the beauty of his legs was constantly displayed before the eyes of the poor captivated lady."

More garden houses were constructed at this period, including temples to friendship, to coming-of-age, to peace, to victory, to anything and anybody—such was the craze for classic gardening. The famous pagoda, ten stories high, was adorned with eighty dragons, covered with coloured glass, and holding bells in their mouths.

When George III came to the throne he continued his mother's work and added more buildings to the already crowded gardens. There were temples to Arethusa, Bellona, Pan, Æolus, and to Solitude, a theatre, a mosque, and a Gothic building, the front of which represented a cathedral; there was also a menagerie, without which, from the days of the Tudors, no royal palace appears to have been complete.

Many rare trees and shrubs were planted, and the glass house called " the Great Store " was erected and stocked with

palms, while emissaries were despatched far and wide in search of rarities for Kew Gardens.

Prince George was out riding when his grandfather died. As the news was not unexpected he had arranged with his valet to make a sign to him before any word could be spoken of this important event. His aunt, Princess Amelia, sent for him and he returned to the palace without showing any emotion, thanks to his man's gesticulations.

In 1769 the new King commissioned the architect, Chambers, to design a new and larger palace " in the turreted style " to the north-west of the Dutch House ; but the building never rose above the basement floor.

After the purchase of additional lands adjoining, the grounds soon assumed their present shape under the personal direction of the King.

The Princess of Wales died at the Dutch House in 1772, whereupon her son, King George, once more took up his abode in the house where he had spent the early days of his youth. His large family appears to have been spread about in the various buildings scattered over the gardens, not without the inevitable confusion and discomfort. Everybody had to take a hand at the gardens, as formerly, and it is said that His Majesty used to go round himself with a watering-pot.

Not content with these activities, " Farmer George " rented a farm at Mortlake where he indulged in agricultural experiments and sheep-breeding. Experts in every branch of horticulture were employed " all of them firmly devoted to the hallowed cause." It is little to be wondered at, in these circumstances, that Fanny Burney wrote :

" There is no form or ceremony here of any sort. The Royal Family are here always in so very retired a way, that they live as the simplest country gentlefolks. The king has not even an equerry ; nor the queen any lady to attend her when she goes her airings. All the household are more delicate in

inviting friends here than elsewhere, on account of the very easy way in which the family live, running about from one end of the house to the other without precaution or care."

Again : " When at Kew the Royal Family lived in a state of social feeling and comfort, far distant from those high courtly airs by which the demon etiquette exalts the sovereign into a being to be worshipped, and degrades the subordinates into a condition of servility but little removed from oriental vassalage."

There follows a lively description of the life at Kew stating that " the king and queen rose at 6 and enjoyed uninterrupted leisure until 8, when the elder children were brought from their several houses to breakfast with them. The younger ones arrived at 9. In the afternoons the queen worked and the king read to her, and once a week the whole family would make a tour of Richmond Gardens."

No wonder that poor Fanny Burney, in her letters, constantly referred to the muddle at the Dutch House—she describes it as being " inconvenient and old-fashioned." Excepting the royal apartments the rooms were small and dark, and there were staircases in every passage, and passages in every closet. She declares that on her first evening there she lost her way continually " only in passing from my room to the queen's." When the King's illness was causing much concern, the doctors urged his removal from Windsor to Kew, and this was only achieved by keeping him in ignorance of their purpose. Queen Charlotte and the Court drove to Kew and awaited the King's arrival without unpacking their baggage, lest they should fail to bring him ; and Miss Burney relates how, late that night, she heard the carriage come and the sound of the King's voice talking incessantly and very fast.

A letter in the possession of a friend of the writer, written by the Hon^ble^ Mrs. George Villiers shortly after this time, states that " Inn the month of Nov. 1788 the King's malady

was at its height, and, while the Royal Family were residing here, Dr. Willis, a clergyman who practiced medicine, and who was at that time the king's superintendent desired that Princess Amelia should be brought to her father, and she was accordingly taken to him. The sight of his darling excited H.M. so violently that he swore that henceforth no one should separate them. It was not until the Qn. arrived on the scene that the child could be got away from him. The terrible illness of her dear father, the distress of her mother and sisters coupled with the anxious demeanor of the servants threw a heavy gloom over the life of the little girl at this time, and the melancholy visit to Kew did not tend to dispel it."

The public were admitted to Kew Gardens in this reign. "The Green in these days," says Mrs. Papendieck, "was covered with carriages, more than £300 being often taken at the bridge on Sundays. Parties came up by water, too, with bands of music. The whole was one scene of enchantment and delight; Royalty living among their subjects to give pleasure and to do good. There were dances, fireworks and a constant variety of amusements adapted to the several tastes of the royal children, to diversify the usual routine."

This familiarity of the Royal Family bred the contempt of Lady Mary Coke, who scornfully remarked that the company consisted of "but the second rank of gentry."

Queen Charlotte insisted on a Christmas tree at Kew, and she was probably the first person to institute that pleasant custom in this country.

There is now but one of the more important royal houses left here; it would be tedious to attempt a description of those which have disappeared or have been altered beyond recognition and used for various purposes other than residential.

The Dutch House, the oldest of the royal group at Kew, is the sole survivor within the gardens. After the King's partial recovery, he and his Queen lived here, sometimes, if the King

of Hanover's recollections can be trusted, with only one or two attendants. George III would, at any rate, entertain a Minister to dinner on the homely diet of mutton chops and pudding.

As the King was breakfasting at Kew the great scarcity of beef which was then prevailing in England became the subject of conversation. "Why do not people plant more beef?" asked His Majesty. Upon being told that beef could not be raised from seed, he seemed still incredulous. He afterwards took some bits of beefsteak and went into the garden and planted them. The following morning he hurried out to see if they had sprouted, and found there some snails feeding. Thinking they were young oxen, he was heard calling out in triumph, "Here they are! here they are, Charlotte, horns and all!"

When it was deemed necessary to strengthen the succession the Dukes of Cambridge, Clarence and Kent were each of them hurriedly married in the Queen's presence at Kew. A contemporary writer, describing the event, wrote: "The most important circumstance we have to record is the marriage of the Duke of Clarence and the Duke of Kent on Saturday, when a temporary altar was fitted up in the queen's drawing-room, which looks into Kew Gardens, on the first floor; the royal pairs and other members of the royal family, having taken their places round the altar, the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of London, performed the marriage ceremony."

There was no chapel at Kew Palace, and on Sundays "Their Majesties and the five princesses go into an inner room by themselves, furnished with hassocks, like their closet at church. By the door of this room," says Miss Burney, "though not within it, stands the clergyman at his desk; the servants were ranged in an outer apartment, in rows according to their station."

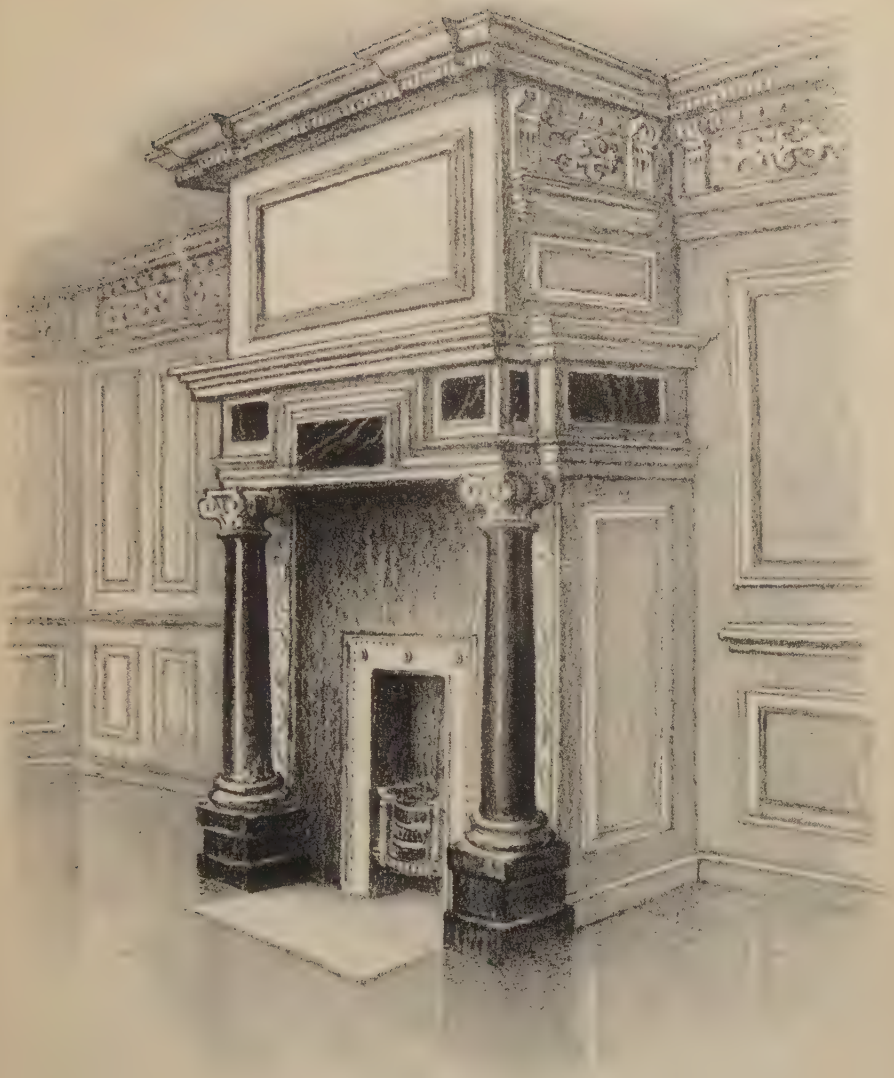
Queen Charlotte died at Kew in 1818, leaving all her possessions to her four unmarried daughters. "This consisted principally of her jewels, for there was so little money that some of her personalty was sold to pay a few outstanding debts," wrote the Hon. Miss Murray.

Three months later George III expired and Kew Palace no longer housed any member of the Royal Family. It was not until 1897, when Queen Victoria opened the palace to the public, that the old Dutch House once more became a place of national interest. It remains an unspoiled example of Jacobean architecture with a strong Dutch influence. The state rooms exhibit this characteristic, the fire-place of the Queen's drawing-room being similar to those depicted by Dutch artists of the early seventeenth century.

One of the houses facing Kew Green is Cambridge Cottage, a long, low-built, rambling house, quite unpretentious in itself, but possessing an incongruous porch of severe Greek design. This cottage was long the residence of H.R.H. the Duchess of Cambridge, the grandmother of Queen Mary. It afterwards passed to her son, the Duke of Cambridge. The house is now converted into a museum and may be visited from the Gardens.

Near the Observatory beyond Kew Gardens once stood Richmond Lodge, occasionally resided in by the Prince of Wales, son of George I. It was here that the prince received the news of the death of the King, which took place at Osnaburg. Sir Robert Walpole, who rode from London in great haste, arrived at the Lodge and asked for the owner, but the mistress of the house could not be induced to let him enter. He was informed that the master was asleep after dinner; he always slept after his dinner, and woe to the person who disturbed him!

"Walpole pushed everyone aside and entered the bedroom, wherein upon the bed lay a little gentleman; the messenger



THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM, KEW.

knelt down saying, 'I have the honour to announce to your Majesty that your royal father, King George I died on Saturday last.' 'Dat is one big lie' roared out his sacred Majesty King George II," so wrote Thackeray in describing the scene. The house was eventually pulled down by Queen Charlotte.

# CHAPTER XXII

## CLAREMONT

" In Claremont's bounds was Pleasure seen,
To dwell with Love, ' in alleys green ' ;
And Hope and Joy, in the rosey bow'r,
Rejoiced through many a noontide hour."

McCreevy.

SINCE the days of Queen Anne Claremont has progressively attained to its high importance among the demesnes of Surrey. In that reign Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect, whose professional talents, after a long season of sarcastic reproach, are at length beginning to be held in due estimation, purchased some land beyond Esher and erected a small brick house there, says the historian Bray. The estate was sold to Thomas Pelham Holles, Earl of Clare, who added a magnificent room for the entertainment of his political friends. He likewise built on the high ground a " castellated prospect-house," and called it after his own title, Clare-mont. This tower still exists and gives its name to the entire property. The house and park were sold to Lord Clive, who remodelled the grounds under " Capability " Brown and built a new mansion there.

Sir Samuel Garth declared that " the situation is so agreeable and surprising, that it inclines one to think that some place of this nature put Ovid at first upon the story of Narcissus and the Fountain." He ends a poem in honour of the prospect thus :

" The place shall live in song and Claremont be the name."

The architect, Kent, also had a hand in laying out the gardens, but Lancelot Brown is said to have designed the house,

which was built at the cost of £100,000. The expenditure of this large sum of money is not surprising when the fact is considered that Lord Clive obtained and possessed himself of rupees to the value of £234,000 in connection with his dealings in the East India Company. However, the accusations hurled at him on this account "made a deep and gloomy impression on his lofty mind." Conjoined with the mental and bodily fatigues which he had undergone in India, subsequent insults led to his committing suicide whilst "in a paroxysm of acute pain."

In 1816 His Majesty's Commission of Woods and Forests purchased the estate for providing a suitable residence for Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte, only daughter of the Prince Regent, upon her marriage with Leopold, Prince of Saxe-Coburg.

The amiable Princess Charlotte lived for a brief period at Claremont, in all the happiness of conjugal and domestic union; and here, alas, it was that she died in child-bed a year after her marriage, having been delivered of a stillborn son a few hours previously. "If ever tears of a nation were shed from heart-felt grief," says Brayley, "it was upon that occasion; never before had the ruthless destroyer of men struck a being whose loss was so deeply mourned, so universally lamented." Had she outlived her father, this lady might have been Queen of England.

The princess and her husband were charming and simple personages; the tale is told, narrating how Prince Leopold would proceed on foot to the village of Esher, give his orders to the grocer and fishmonger, and talk affably to the local shopkeepers.

Whilst the deeply afflicted widower continued to reside at Claremont, the apartment in which his wife died was kept closed and its furniture undisturbed. "Since, however," says Brayley, "that the high destinies of Prince Leopold have raised

him to the throne of Belgium, and that the mansion has been occasionally occupied by H.M. Queen Victoria, all the rooms have been reopened."

When King Leopold, at the age of upwards of three-score-and-ten years, drew up his reminiscences for his niece, Princess Victoria, he wrote thus of himself:

"November, 1817, saw the ruin of this happy home, and the destruction at one blow of every hope and happiness. Never has this feeling of happiness, which blessed my short married life, returned." Baron Stockmar added, "As long as grief found no expression I was much alarmed for his health; but now he is relieved by frequent tears and moans."

The following lines were written by Princess Charlotte as an inscription for a snuff-box intended as a present to her husband:

"To Claremont's terrac'd heights and Esher's groves,
Where in the sweetest solitude, embraced
By the soft winding of the silent Mole,
From Courts and cities Charlotte finds repose.
Enchanting vale! beyond whate'er the Muse
Has of Achaia or Hesperia sung:
O vale of bliss! O softly-swelling hills,
On which the power of cultivation lies,
And joys to see the wonder of his toil."

A contemporary writer exclaimed:

"When we think of the Anglo-Indian potentate, broken-hearted in the midst of his wealth: of the gentle young princess, dying in the prime of her youth and beauty: and of the discrowned king, Louis Philippe, returning to die amid the scenes which had afforded him shelter, some forty years earlier, we are fain to declare with Burke, 'What shadows we are and what shadows we pursue.'"

The house at Claremont is said to be the only complete

CLAREMONT.

mansion that Brown ever built, although he altered many. It occupies a commanding position. It is oblong in form and the servants' quarters are approached through a tunnel from the drive. The building is of light-coloured brick with stone dressings. It has a fine portico, with a pediment within which is a large sculpture of the arms and supporters of Lord Clive. There is a great oval hall and eight stately reception rooms on the first floor.

The gardens cover sixty acres and contain some magnificent trees and a lake. Not far from the house is the mausoleum (as now called) of Princess Charlotte. It is in the pointed style of architecture misnamed Gothic but dear to the fashion of the day. This elegant little structure was designed under the direction of the princess as an alcove, or open seat, but being unfinished at the time of her decease it was completed by Prince Leopold, in a more expensive manner, and converted into a memorial to the departed.

Ridiculous grottos, with spars, stalactites, and the usual absurdities of the period, were scattered about the park, as at Kew and Chiswick, but, on the public being admitted into these grounds, they were mostly reduced to a sad state of dilapidation, nearly all the ornamental appendages being carried off by the vulgar multitude, desiring something in memory of Princess Charlotte.

During the early years of their married life Claremont was the favourite place for retirement of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. The park had been liked during the Queen's girlhood, and in its pleasant glades she first learnt to sketch from Nature—an art subsequently cultivated with much success. Writing of Claremont, the Queen observes, "This place has a peculiar charm for us both, and to me it brings back recollections of the happiest days of my otherwise dull childhood." In a letter to her Uncle Leopold she wrote "Victoria" [Princess Royal] "plays with old bricks &ct, and I see her run-

ning and jumping in the flower garden, much as *old*, though I fear, still *little* Victoria of former days used to do."

Brayley writes: "Beneath the umbraceous foliage of an old cork tree her Majesty and her Royal Consort, when sojourning at Claremont in the summer of the present year (1842) have not unfrequently taken breakfast, whilst their lovely infants were sporting on the lawn before them."

Claremont has been the temporary abode of various members of the Royal Family. Here in 1871 the Marquis of Lorne and his royal bride, Princess Louise, came to spend a few days of privacy after their wedding.

In 1882 the mansion became the residence of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, on his marriage with the Princess Helen of Waldeck. After the sudden death of the prince, two years later, his widow and their son and daughter continued to live here. The Great War brought further trouble and in consequence the bereaved duchess found it convenient to live elsewhere. The young Duke of Albany, having succeeded to the dukedom of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, no longer resided in England, and Claremont was eventually sold and resold to successive purchasers, each of whom died shortly after taking possession. It was recently acquired again as a country residence and a great sum of money expended in redecorating and furnishing the interior on the original lines. Unfortunately circumstances have necessitated the re-sale of Claremont before the completion of the work, the result being that the house and park have changed ownership no less than four times in as many years. The famous woods are being penetrated by new roads and parcelled out in plots while the deserted mansion stands with closed doors and shuttered windows as if in protest to the final scene of desecration and distortion around it.

In the agony of death, as it were, the romance of Claremont still clings to this place of rare enchantment. In every direction there are pleasant surprises in store for the visitor. The views

around are superb, especially those over the lake from the mausoleum, which surpass all other prospects within the fourteen miles radius from Hyde Park. Half-hidden in a glade there stands a life-like representation of a wild boar in action, said to commemorate a boar hunt organized by the Comte de Paris, when the victim was chased along the village street of Esher. Queen Victoria's enclosed garden near the small but interesting house of Vanburgh's building still remains a blaze of roses. Beyond are the kitchen gardens, surrounded by magnificent bastioned walls. The great stables, with many a row of stalls, forms a fine court, entered through an arched gateway. The park is dominated by belts of gigantic trees, many of them composed of rare specimens secured from far and near by Capability Brown.

It is not surprising that all the poets, and many others, who have had the privilege of visiting Claremont in the past, expressed their appreciation of its beauties in verse. Who will write its dirge ?

# CHAPTER XXIII

## CHISWICK HOUSE

"While you, my Lord, bid stately piles ascend,
Or in your Chiswick bow'rs enjoy your friend;
Where Pope unloads the boughs within his reach,
The purple vine, blue plumb, and blushing peach."

GAY.

PERHAPS the earliest royal event concerning Chiswick was in the reign of James I, when the King's disgraced favourite, Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, after being imprisoned in the Tower for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, repaired to Chiswick House and there promised not to go near the Court again. In 1631 the irrepressible Somerset wrote to the King with affected gaiety, sending him "gleanings of his grapes, the best having been gathered long before, to his own advantage, peaches conscionable good, with all that were left of his plums." "If," said Somerset, "the King would provide the writer with a good gardener, he should have a yearly tribute." But these forced jocularities were in vain, says Lloyd Sanders in his history of Chiswick. Eventually the Earl sold the property in order to endow his daughter, Lady Anne.

About thirty years subsequent to Somerset's ownership, the property was held by Lord Ashburnham, by whom a grant of Chiswick House and all that it contained was made to the Duke of Monmouth, a transaction which cost his father, King Charles, £6000. Lord Crofts, Monmouth's guardian, acted as trustee. Those were the days of the young man's splendour; the King doted on the handsome youth, and his legitimization was discussed as an imminent event. Four years later he

CHISWICK HOUSE.

became Captain of the King's Life Guards, receiving that appointment and £4000 from Lord Gerard of Brandon in exchange for Chiswick House and some other property.

Shortly afterwards the place was sold to the haughty aristocrat, Sir Edward Seymour, who, when William of Orange first greeted him with the polite remark, "You are of the Duke of Somerset's family," replied, "Pardon me, sir, the Duke of Somerset is of my family,"

It was from this gentleman that the Earl of Burlington purchased the property.

Burlington occupied the original house for upwards of twenty years, and it remained for his son to undertake the task of bringing the property up to date in the ruthless manner of the day when so many fine examples of English architecture were wantonly destroyed and replaced by villas in the Italian taste.

Although a portion of the Jacobean mansion is yet extant, Chiswick House, as seen to-day, is a Palladian structure of the conventional order. It was erected in 1730-36 by the famous amateur architect, the second Earl of Burlington, the friend and benefactor of the poets, Pope and Gay.

The not too witty wits of the period dealt somewhat severely with the littleness of the house and its inconveniences, but the men of culture were in raptures over its classic elegance. Walpole observes that "his lordship's house at Chiswick, the idea of which is borrowed from a well-known villa of Palladio (that of the Marquis Capra at Vicenza), is a model of taste, though not without faults, some of which are occasioned by too strict adherence to rules and symmetry, yet, these blemishes, and Lord Hervey's wit, who said 'the house was too small to inhabit, and too large to hang on one's watch chain,' cannot depreciate the taste that reigns in the whole. The larger court, dignified with picturesque cedars, and the classic scenery of the small court that unites the old and the new

house, are more worth seeing than many fragments of ancient grandeur which our travellers visit under all the dangers attendant on long voyages."

Lord Hervey extemporized an Epigram from Martial on Chiswick House:

> "Possess'd of one great hall for state,
> Without one room to sleep or eat;
> How well you build let flattery tell,
> And all mankind how ill you dwell."

The edge of the reproach was somewhat blunted in 1788 when two wings, designed by James Wyatt, were added to the house. Since then there have been no material alterations in the structure, which from the first was regarded as a summer villa. The garden and grounds were treated as part of the design and, lavishly decorated with urns, obelisks, sculpture and temples. In the words of Walpole, "The garden is in the Italian taste, but divested of conceits, and far preferable to every style that reigned till our late improvements."

The poet, Thomson, cites Chiswick as one of those

> "Sylvan scenes, where Art alone pretends
> To dress her mistress, and disclose her charms."

Many of the statues in the grounds are true antiques, says James Thorne in his "Environs of London," and came from Arundel House. The rusticated gate at the side of the house was originally erected in 1625 by Inigo Jones, and came from Beaufort House, Chelsea. To the poet Pope this gate suggested the following epigram:

> "*Passenger:*
> "Oh gate, how cam'st thou here?
> "*Gate:*
> "I was brought from Chelsea last year,

INIGO JONES GATEWAY, CHISWICK

Batterd with wind and weather;
Inigo Jones put me together;
Sir Hans Sloane let me alone;
Burlington brought me hither."

After Lord Burlington's death Chiswick House went to his only daughter and heiress, Charlotte, who was married to William, fourth Duke of Devonshire.

The sixth Duke "opened and aired Chiswick," says the Countess of Granville, who states that he kept a menagerie, including "a few kangaroos, who if affronted will rip up anyone as soon as look at him, elks, emus and other pretty sportive death-dealers playing about near it. The Lawn was beautifully variegated by an Indian bull and his spouse, and goats of all colours and dimensions."

Both Canning and Fox died at Chiswick House, as had Pope before them.

In 1814, when the allied sovereigns visited London, having achieved, as they imagined, the final downfall of Napoleon, the Czar Alexander I, the King of Prussia, with Blücher, Platoff and other mighty men of battle, were entertained at Chiswick. In 1842 came a visit from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Two years later the Czar Nicholas and the King of Saxony enjoyed "one of the most splendid fêtes ever given in this country." They were accompanied by Prince Albert, and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Sir Theodore Martin describes this entertainment and observes that the Czar enjoyed himself vastly, and was much struck by the number of beautiful women present. Guards' bands played during breakfast. Covers were laid for only eighteen. After this meal the Czar held a Court under a cedar tree, and the company were presented to him by Prince Albert. Four giraffes with their Abyssinian keepers were paraded and much admired.

Harriet, Duchess of Sutherland, was a tenant in 1864 when Garibaldi visited Chiswick House and planted a tree in the grounds. The mansion was next tenanted by Edward, Prince of Wales, our late King, whose sons and daughters spent a good deal of their childhood at the villa during seven years.

No one can be more familiar with the beautiful gardens than his present Majesty, who played under the trees there with his elder brother and his three sisters. The house itself was not so pleasing to the royal children, who thought the rooms were haunted. Nestling in an angle of the "Grosvenor Wing" are five small plots of ground, which were the personal care of the royal children during their residence at Chiswick House.

The imposing villa, which is partially hidden from view by tall trees, amongst which it stands embowered, is approached by a double flight of steps, and the portico is supported on six fluted columns of the Corinthian order, surmounted by a pediment; the cornice, frieze, and architraves are rich in detail. The central apartment is an octagonal domed saloon. The interior of the state apartments is finished with the utmost elegance; the ceilings and the mouldings are gilt, upon a white ground, giving a chaste air to the whole suite of entertaining rooms. A somewhat severely classic place, this, for the royal children's nursery. The extensive gardens and secluded groves must have afforded them pleasant relief. Romantic walks and exciting games could be indulged in after the tedium of the school-room was over.

Quite recently the property comprising the house with sixty acres of garden was purchased by the Middlesex County and the local Urban Councils for the enjoyment of the public for all time. Among the mazy paths and shrubberies, its groves and clumps of oak, beech and chestnut, a temple looks down on a sunk basin. Further away a charming bridge spans a canal leading to the lake. Much as the place was admired two cen-

turies ago, the house and grounds could not then have produced so delightful and varied a picture of monumental dignity as it certainly does to-day. The boldness of the fully-grown trees now forms a classical setting to the house which could have been only dimly visualized by the original designers, and it is fortunate for the appreciative town-dwelling public that Chiswick House has come to them at the moment when its mature beauty is in perfect state.

# CHAPTER XXIV

## WHITE LODGE

"Away! our journey lies through dell and dingle,
Where the blithe faun trips by its timid mother,
Where the broad oak, with intercepting boughs,
Chequers the sun-beam in the greensward alley,
Up and away!—for lovely paths are these
To tread, when the glad sun is on his throne."

ETTRICK FOREST.

NEARLY in the centre of Richmond Park, originally called the New Park to distinguish it from the older Home Park of Richmond Palace, there stands an imposing villa called the White Lodge. At one time approached from Richmond through a wide avenue of trees nearly a mile in length, this modest mansion is well placed on an eminence commanding good views over the deer park.

Built by King George II and known at first as "The Stone Lodge," the house was afterwards enlarged by Princess Amelia, under whose direction the two wings were constructed. Wishing to ensure seclusion for herself, the princess closed the entrances to Richmond Park for a short period: however, rights of way having been established, the park was soon restored to the use and enjoyment of the public.

The White Lodge was the favourite residence of Queen Caroline and, from the fact that her daily exercise was taken between the house and Richmond Hill, the long avenue has since been known as Queen's Walk. When promenading this shady pathway Her Majesty was frequently accosted by persons desirous of Court favour and redress of real or imaginary wrongs,

WHITE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK.

and it was here that many munificent acts were performed by the royal pedestrian.

The Duchess of Gloucester was among the distinguished persons who held the position of Ranger of Richmond Park, and she, for a time, lived at White Lodge. In later days the Duke of Cambridge held the post, and it was during his rangership that King Edward, then Prince of Wales, missed a certain oak tree from the park while driving to the house. On his return to London the Deputy-Ranger was summoned to Marlborough House, so he informed the writer, where the Prince renowned for his powers of observation, expressed himself firmly on the matter of the missing oak and gave orders that in future no tree should be removed from any of the parks under the Ranger's control until permission for so doing had been obtained from the Queen through His Royal Highness.

Queen Victoria resided at White Lodge for a while after the death of her mother, the Duchess of Kent. King Edward also lived there when Prince of Wales.

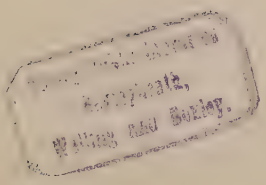
The house was subsequently granted to the Duke and Duchess of Teck, and it was here that their daughter, Princess May, spent some of her girlhood with her three brothers.

One sunny afternoon, during a visit from Queen Victoria, Her Majesty remarked to the Duchess of Teck that the fair-haired girl who was at the moment playing in front of them on the lawn would some day become one of England's greatest queens ; a prophecy which, to the joy of the Empire, has been abundantly fulfilled. This little episode was narrated to the writer by one who had the honour of being a frequent visitor at White Lodge in Victorian days. Who could have foretold then that in later life, after her marriage with the heir to the throne of England, the same fair-haired lady would return to the place of her girlhood and give birth to her first-born son, Edward, now Prince of Wales ?

The Duke and Duchess of York lived at White Lodge as a

newly-wedded couple. The house is in the gift of the King, and is at present tenanted by a national benefactor who presented and endowed a country residence for the use and enjoyment of the Prime Ministers of England.

The indulgent reader will have observed that not a single house described in the foregoing chapters is at present the residence of a member of the Royal Family. It is, however, to be hoped that all these historic homes will eventually be scheduled as places of national interest for the enjoyment of the public in perpetuity.



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